



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC: Councillor call for Action in relation to traffic issues at the junction of Water Lane and Clifton Green, Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green

COUNCILLOR(S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: David Scott, Helen Douglas, Ken King

SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC

Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:

How a review should best be undertaken given the subject

This is a Councillor Call for Action and should be conducted in accordance with the agreed "protocol" and legislation

Who needs to be involved

Officers, Ward Councillors, Executive Member for City Strategy, Local Residents

What should be looked at

Traffic issues at the junction of Water Lane and Clifton Green, Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green

By when it should be achieved;

This should be treated as an urgent matter. It has been the subject of a 2 ward committee meetings – including a special Ward Committee and a petition is due to be presented to Full Council on 9th July 2009

Why we are doing it ?

All usual avenues have been exhausted. There is significant resident dissatisfaction

Annex A

Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached. <i>As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:</i>				
✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions	
	X	X	X	Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)
	X	X	X	Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction
	X	X	X	In keeping with corporate priorities
	X	X	X	Level of Risk
	X	X	X	Service Efficiency
	X			National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context

Further Information on how topic fits with Eligibility Criteria

Public Interest –

The traffic issues in question are related to a major arterial road. It has links to the provision of better cycling provisions as part of Cycling City

Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction –

There have been significant concerns expressed from resident regarding the structure, consultation and implementation of the revision to the Water Lane/Clifton Green junction

In keeping with Corporate Priorities –

It has links to the Healthier City and the Thriving City Corporate Priorities

Level of Risk –

The level of risk was incorrectly assessed initially when this project was assessed.

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?

If you have not already done so above, please indicate in response to this, how any review would be in the public or Council's interest e.g. reviewing recycling options in the city would reduce the cost to the Council for landfill

This is a Councillor Call for Action raised because of significant resident dissatisfaction following amendments to the traffic flow at the junction of Water Lane and Clifton Green. This was implemented following the decision of the Executive Member for City Strategy at the City Strategy EMAP in October 2008.

Changes to the junction have resulting in additional congestion in the area and "rat running" along Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green.

The previous Cycling Champion, Cllr Watt, resigned because of the changes to this junction.

Officers from City Strategy attended the normal Clifton Ward Committee and noted residents concerns. Traffic surveys were conducted and reported to a special meeting of the Ward Committee on 10th June. However whilst the figures were considered to be flawed they indicate an increase of traffic along Westminster Road and The Avenue of over 50%.

Officers have indicated any changes cannot be agreed until December 2009 at the earliest with work to commence after that time. This is too long for residents to have to suffer, taking into account the proximity of a school.

The situation has been exacerbated by the removal of speed humps on Westminster Road to facilitate building works at he school

The Executive Member gave an assurance at the City Strategy EMAP in October to review the matter if there were significant difficulties. Those have been clear identified by residents.

Residents require have made various suggestion to solve/reduce the problems. They include:-

- Closing Westminster Road to through Traffic*
- Re-instating the left turn at Water lane/Clifton Green junction*
- NO right turn in Westminster Road*
- 20 mph zone*

Officers have failed to provide any interim or long term solutions or options

Urgent action is therefore needed to break the log-jam.

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

This information will be used to help prepare a remit for the review should Scrutiny Management Committee decide the topic meets the criteria e.g. How much recycling is presently being done and ways of increasing it

See above

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

Involving the right people throughout the process is crucial to any successful review e.g. CYC Commercial Services / other local councils who have reviewed best practice for recycling / other organisations who use recycled goods

Residents of the affected area
Car and Cycling Groups
Police

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

It should follow the procedure for the Councillor Call for Action

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

(a) 1-3 months;

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

See minutes of Ward Committees meeting for the Clifton ward Committee

What will happen next?

- a Scrutiny Officer will prepare a feasibility study based on the information you have provided above and on further information gathered. This process should take no more than six weeks;
- on completion, the feasibility study will be presented to Scrutiny Management Committee together with a recommendation whether or not to proceed with the review. If the recommendation is to proceed, the feasibility study will include a remit on how the review should be carried out

In support of this topic, you may be required to:

- meet with the Scrutiny Officer to clarify information given in this submission and/or assist with developing a clear and focussed remit for a potential review;
- attend the meeting of Scrutiny Management Committee at which the topic is being considered for scrutiny review in support of your registration

What will happen if the topic is recommended for review?

- The Scrutiny Management Committee will agree a timescale for completion of the review.
- An Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee will be formed and a series of formal meeting dates will be agreed. These should allow for at least the following:

1st Meeting Scoping Report

2nd Meeting interim progress meeting

Depending on the timescale of the review, a further interim progress meeting may be required

3rd Meeting Agree final draft report for SMC

- The final draft report will be considered by SMC and a final report with recommendations will be produced for consideration by the Executive
- Any decisions taken at Executive as a result will be reviewed after six months to ensure implementation has taken place.

A Member will be nominated to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations - you may be asked to take on this role.

Annex A

Please return your completed registration form to Scrutiny Services or, if you want any more information about Scrutiny or submitting a new topic for consideration then please contact the Scrutiny Team.

Email: Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk

Tel No. 01904 552038

For Scrutiny Administration Only

Topic Identity Number

Date Received

Feasibility Study to be completed by:

Date of SMC when study will be considered:

SC1- date sent