

Traffic Congestion Review - 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 their draft final report previously presented to Scrutiny Management Committee in May 2009.
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 were consulted on the best methods for producing and carrying out the survey and an analysis of the costs agreed at that time are shown at Annex A, and the budget allocated for the survey was based on that analysis.
4. The budget allocated for carrying out the survey based on the original costings was carried forward from the scrutiny budget for the financial year 2008/09, into the scrutiny budget for the financial year 2009/10.
5. As part of the original costings, it was agreed that the survey would be distributed as an insertion within 'Your Ward / Your City' in order to limit the distribution costs. However, the current Chief Executive has stated that this would not be suitable, therefore Marketing & Communications intend distributing the survey by itself. This will therefore result in an increase in the distribution costs and a revised costing is shown at Annex B (to follow).

Information Gathered

6. Work has been ongoing within Marketing & Communications to produce a draft survey for the Traffic Congestion Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee to consider. A meeting of that Committee is currently being arranged for the last week in Sept / first week in October (subject to Members availability), at which they will consider the draft survey and agree any changes / additions. The intention is to produce and distribute the survey as soon as possible following that meeting, in order to

ensure it does not coincide with the distribution of the draft LTP3 which is due to be sent out early 2010.

Options

6. This report is for information only and therefore there are no options applicable.

Implications

6. **Financial** – There are financial implications associated with the decision not to distribute the survey as an insertion within ‘Your Ward / Your City’ as this method will incur additional costs as outlined in Annex B.
7. **Legal, HR, Equalities, Crime & Disorder, Property or Other** – There are no known implications associated with the information in this report.

Corporate Strategy

8. The implementation of the recommendations arising from the Traffic Congestion Scrutiny 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 survey, 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 the Traffic Congestion 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

12. Members are asked to note the content of this information only report.

Reason: To enable the survey to be carried out.

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Report Approved



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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 7 May 2009

Annexes

Annex A – Original Costings for Consultation

Annex B – Revised Costings for Consultation (to follow)