
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

8th December 2009

Interim Report of the Water End Task Group

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to present Members of the Committee with a draft extended scope and timetable for the review. It also presents Members with background information and work undertaken by the Task Group to date.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

To determine the best solution for the problems local residents are experiencing and to look at what lessons can be learnt in order to inform the implementation of similar schemes within the city.

Key Objectives

- i. To establish whether local concerns still exist in the light of the Executive Member's decision¹
- ii. To explore whether further improvements can be made to address the current traffic issues
- iii. From experience to date, identify those measures or actions that can be taken to assist in the smooth implementation of similar schemes in the city.
- iv. To understand the context of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to this CCfA

¹ It was agreed at the last full meeting of the Committee that key objective (i) be put on hold until after the Executive Member for City Strategy had received his next report. The Task Group would concentrate on objectives ii, iii, & iv of this remit. Members of the entire Committee would be asked their views on the report going to the Executive Member.

Consultation

3. To date, consultation has mainly taken place with relevant technical officers within the Council. There are plans to hold a public event in the future and this is detailed in the scope and timetable below.

Scope & Timetable for the Review

4. The Task Group met informally on 22nd October 2009 to draft the scope and timetable for the review. This is set out in the table below.

Date	Key Objective	Action	Possible Attendees
22.10.2009	All	Scoping & timetabling of review	Task Group & scrutiny officer
18.11.2009	All	Site visit at peak time (approx 5pm)	Task Group, scrutiny officer & relevant technical officers
08.12.2009	All	Approval of scoping & timetabling of review	Full Committee
15.12.2009	i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For background purposes – To receive previous reports on this area, in particular the report to the Executive Member for City Strategy on 20th October 2008 (Water End – proposed improvements for cyclists) ➤ For Background purposes - To receive & understand the available technical reports/modelling data [including looking at 'before' & 'after' traffic survey data and any forecasts made to substantiate the case for the improved junction proposals] ➤ For background purposes - To receive 	Task Group, scrutiny officer, relevant technical officers

		<p>& understand information on York's cycling infrastructure, in particular the Orbital Cycle Route, the rationale of the scheme & how the works in the Water Lane area fit with this.</p>	
15.12.2009	li & iii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To receive & understand a breakdown of the cost of the works at Water End/Clifton Green to date ➤ To receive information on & understand the possibility, viability & the cost of restoring the road to its original layout 	Task Group, scrutiny officer & relevant technical officer(s)
15.12.2009	iv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To receive & understand the context of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in relation to this CCfA ➤ To receive information on any relevant case-law precedents 	Legal Services
TBC	All	<p><u>Public Event</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To meet with local residents, cyclists & other users of the roadway in this area to hear their views. [This event is likely to start with a short presentation given by the Chair of the Committee and/or the scrutiny officer to present the information found to date. There would then be time for the public to feed in 	Task Group, scrutiny officer, technical officers & members of the public

		their views – a time limit for each speaker may be set for this dependent on how many attendees there are]	
TBC	iii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To receive & understand the views of residents collated at the public event ➤ To undertake a comparison with the implementation of the cycle scheme along the Fulford Corridor & whether City of York Council follows a 'model' procedure when implementing these kinds of schemes ➤ To explore whether there is scope for City of York Council to trial schemes, or use temporary schemes, to ensure that they are suitable before embarking upon potentially costly changes to road layouts 	
TBC	All	To review the information received to date in order to formulate draft recommendations for inclusion in the draft final report	Task Group & scrutiny Officer
TBC	All	Consider & agree draft final report	Task Group & scrutiny officer
TBC	All	Consider draft final report	Full Committee
TBC	All	Final report to SMC	Chair of the Committee & the scrutiny officer

TBC	All	Final report to the Executive	Chair of the Committee & the scrutiny officer
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All Key Objectives

Information Gathered to date

5. On 18th November 2009 at 5.30pm, the Water End Task Group observed the traffic flow at the junction of Water End, Clifton and Bootham. They also spent some time observing traffic at the junction of Water End and Westminster Road. Members made the following comments:

Councillor Pierce

The Task Group was given a guided tour and explanation by the Assistant Director (City Development & Transport) of the improvement works at a site meeting held during the evening peak period of 18th November. He argued that, whilst queues back along the bridge were longer, the actual delay was shorter because of the new light sequence. Considerable traffic flow data had been obtained (including CCTV) which demonstrated the greater efficiency of the new junction arrangements and increased bicycle flows. The data would be reported to the Task Group at their next meeting. He also explained that vehicular traffic had not been excluded from the space occupied by the previous left turn into Shipton Road as the cycle land was marked by a pecked line from which other traffic was not excluded. Members' observations supported the officer's arguments. Members also watched traffic flows along Westminster Road and The Avenue.

Councillor Hudson

Queue lengths changed dramatically over the time we were at the junction, however it should also be noted that there were roadworks in other parts of the city, which could have affected this.

Options

6. Members have the following options:

- Option A** Approve the draft extended scope & timetable at paragraph 4 of this report
- Option B** Amend the draft extended scope & timetable at paragraph 4 of this report
- Option C** Provide comment on the outcomes of the work undertaken so far by the Task Group

Analysis

7. The draft extended scope and timetable set out in paragraph 4 of this report provide the Task Group with a clear focus of the work that needs to be undertaken. Members of the Committee may wish to comment on or amend the scope and timetable prior to formally approving it.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

8. Although this topic does not directly fall in line with any of the themes in the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012, the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee still has an obligation to address the issues raised within the formally registered CCfA.

Implications

9. **Financial** – There is a small amount of funding available within the scrutiny budget to carry out reviews. There are no other financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report however; implications may arise as the review progresses.
10. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report.
11. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however the remit for this review requests that information be provided on the Land Compensation Act 1973. It may be that that legal implications arise as the review progresses.
12. There are no known equalities, property, crime & disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report however; implications may arise as the review progresses.

Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report however; risks may become apparent as the review progresses.

Recommendations

14. Members of the Committee are asked to:
 - i. Approve the draft extended scope & timetable at paragraph 4 of this report
 - ii. Note and comment on the work undertaken by the Task Group to date

Reason: In order to progress this review

Contact Details

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**Interim Report
Approved**

Date 26.11.2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Clifton Ward

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None