
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

8th December 2009

Feasibility Study – Safe Travel to School

Summary

1. This report presents Members with a feasibility study regarding a scrutiny topic on the 'physical access to schools across the city with specific reference to school travel plans, the speed of traffic, illegal parking, effectiveness of crossings and surface of roads and pavements.' A copy of the topic registration form is at Annex A to this report.

Background

2. Councillor James Alexander originally registered the topic in November 2008. At the time of submission Councillor Alexander was advised to await the outcome of the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee, as it was envisaged that the final report from this would cover many of the issues he had raised.
3. Councillor Alexander has now seen the draft final report of the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee and is not satisfied that the issues that he has raised are covered. The original topic registration form, therefore, is still live and Members of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider it at their meeting today. Councillor Alexander will be in attendance at the meeting to speak to the topic and to answer any questions Members may have for him.

Criteria

4. Councillor Alexander has indicated, on the topic registration form, that he believes the topic fits with all the listed criteria (Annex A refers).

Consultation

5. The following persons were consulted as part of the feasibility process and comments received are set out at Annex B to this report:
 - Executive Member for City Strategy
 - Executive Member for Children's Services
 - Relevant City of York Council officers

6. If any review is progressed then it is envisaged that there will be further consultees.

Options

7. Members are asked to consider the following options:

Option A Progress the topic to review

Option B Receive a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Programme and School Travel Plans in order to identify whether these could be a focus for a scrutiny review

Option C Do not progress the topic to review

Analysis

8. Many of the comments set out in Annex B to this report raise concerns regarding the extent of the proposed scrutiny topic. The comments suggest that the topic should be more clearly defined and concentrated around the Safe Routes To School Programme and/or School Travel Plans. As the topic stands at the moment the consultees indicate that it is too wide reaching and it is doubtful what value could be gained from it in its present form.
9. Members may, therefore, wish to consider receiving a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Programme and School Travel Plans in order to identify whether these could be a focus for a scrutiny review. A presentation would clearly define any areas that a scrutiny review could concentrate on or alternatively it may reassure the Committee that nothing further needs to be done. The Principal Transport Planner (Operations) has indicated that he, and Members of his team, would be happy to undertake this.
10. Should Members choose to proceed with a review on this topic in its present format, the topic registration form at Annex A to this report lists the areas that should be looked at along with suggestions for consultees.
11. Members will also need to take into consideration commitments already in their work plan and decide where any work regarding this would be best placed.

Implications

12. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report however; should Members of the Committee choose to progress this topic to review implications may arise. There is a small amount of funding in the scrutiny budget to enable reviews to take place.
13. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however; should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.

14. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
15. There are no known equalities, crime & disorder, information technology or property implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

16. In compliance with the Council's risk management policy there are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

17. Members are recommended to undertake Option B as set out in paragraph 7 of this report and receive a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Programme and School Travel Plans in order to identify whether these could be a focus for a scrutiny review.

Reason: To address the concerns raised in the topic registration form.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Alison Lowton
Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic
Services
Tel: 01904 551004

**Feasibility Study
Approved**



Date 26.11.2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Topic Registration Form
Annex B Comments from Consultees