

Traffic Congestion Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

19 February 2007

Scoping Report

Purpose of Report

1. This report outlines the above review to examine the problems arising from traffic congestion in York. The review will look at the measures previously put into place through Local Transport Plan (LTP)1, those measures included in LTP2, and identify any further measures which could be taken to reduce the expected rise in congestion between 2006 - 2011.

Background

2. This topic was originally registered by Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing in April 2005 in an effort to access the draft of LTP2 prior to its submission. It was envisaged that the scrutiny process would ensure that LTP2 met the aspirations of the Planning & Transport Executive Member and Advisory Panel and would allow time for the Executive Member to be questioned on issues of concern. A decision was taken to defer the topic and LTP2 was subsequently submitted.
3. In November 2006 Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) reconsidered the topic registration together with a draft remit submitted by Cllr Simpson-Laing. After due consideration, the draft remit was amended and agreed as follows:

Aim

4. To identify ways including LTP1, LTP2 and other evidence, of reducing present levels of traffic congestion in York, and ways of minimising the impact of the forecast traffic increase.

Objectives

5. Having regard to the impact of traffic congestion (based on external evidence and those measures already implemented in LTP1 or proposed in LTP2), recommend and prioritise specific improvements to:
 - i. Road Safety
 - ii. Accessibility to services, employment, education and health
 - iii. Journey times and reliability of public transport
 - iv. Economic Performance
 - v. Quality of Life

- vi. CO² Emissions
 - vii. Alternative environmentally viable and financially practical methods of transport
 - viii. Air Quality, in particular looking at the five hotspots identified in the LTP2
6. In an effort to keep the review focused and in consideration of the suggested timetable below, officers in City Strategy have suggested that Members consider the specific improvements in the order shown above as this is would be the most effective approach.

Consultation

7. SMC agreed that in order to identify any improvements which could be made to the above factors, the review should examine the measures previously carried out as part of LTP1 and those measures due to be implemented as a result of LTP2, in order to be sure that the lessons learnt had been fed into LTP2. This could include examining the model work carried out for both. It was also recognised that it would be beneficial to compare the achievements gained from the measures put in place by LTP1 to those achieved elsewhere under similar circumstances.
8. It was suggested that Mike Smith, an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of York, be co-opted onto the Committee as he has a 32 year record of academic work on mathematical and computer models of transport. He has previously attended meetings at Department for Transport (DfT) to consider future transportation modelling and is an active participant in a £9M Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) research program designed to assist in the development of future Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Timetable For Review

9. SMC agreed a timeframe of six months for this review. As well as examining LTP1 & LTP2, Members of the sub-committee will need to:
- Agree dates of future meetings and the suggested involvement of officers as shown at Annex A
 - Identify any tasks to be carried out and designate by whom
 - Identify any consultation activities / events

Options

10. Having regard to the aim and objectives of this topic remit, Members may decide to agree to the involvement of the above named Co-optee.

Implications

11. There will be a financial implication in carrying out this review as it will impact on resources i.e. staff time, but until Members agree to which officers are to be involved this cannot be assessed. There are no known Human Resources, Equalities, Legal or other implications in respect of this review.

Corporate Priorities

12. This review relates to the following corporate priorities of this Council:
- No.2 Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport and objectives, and other key change programmes e.g. 'Easy at York'.
 - No.7 Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are poorest

Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report other than the focus of the review and the progress of the Scrutiny Workplan would be adversely affected if the review did not keep within the agreed timescale .

Recommendations

14. It is recommended that Members consider and agree:
- a) the proposed timetable and officer involvement
 - b) the involvement of the suggested co-optee
 - c) any additional tasks, consultative events or additional information required

Reason: To ensure the progression of this review and compliance with scrutiny procedures, protocols and workplans.

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Scoping Report Approved



Date 1 February 2007

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

All

Background Papers - LTP1 & LTP2

Annex A - Suggested timetable for review