
Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

25th January 2011

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Update on Recommendations Arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)

Summary

1. This report presents Members with an update on progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Water End Councillor Call for Action.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 12th August 2009 Members were asked to consider a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) submitted by Councillors Scott, King and Douglas in relation to traffic issues at the junction of Water End and Clifton Green, Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green.
3. A cross-party Task Group was set up to undertake the work and they subsequently presented the following three recommendations to the Executive on 6th July 2010:

Recommendation 1

4. That Council Officers urgently develop new, comprehensive proposals for the Water End junctions to improve the current junction and reduce greatly traffic flows in Westminster Road/The Avenue

Recommendation 2

5. That the Council should, in future, use traffic models, which incorporate side streets when assessing and designing junction improvements

Recommendation 3

6. That the present policy of reviewing new highway schemes only after a period of 12 months should be modified to enable a review after three months when unforeseen consequences have arisen and when Ward Members request.

Progress on Implementing the Recommendations Arising from the Councillor Call for Action

7. The following paragraphs present updates on the progress made in relation to implementing the recommendations arising from the review:

Recommendation 1

8. The Executive did not endorse this recommendation as written as it had been suggested by the Executive Member for City Strategy that the Scrutiny Committee, in the light of Officer concerns about the limited options available to them, should make it clear precisely what changes they would expect to see covered by the recommendation for 'new comprehensive proposals for the Water End junctions to improve the current junction and reduce greatly traffic flows in Westminster Road and The Avenue'. The Task Group that had undertaken the work on the Councillor Call for Action responded as below:

'The Task Group's response to the request of the Executive Member for an indication from Members of the Task Group, as to what it is they envisage could be done is for the reinstatement of the left hand turning at Water End by cutting back the hedges, removing the cobbles and providing enough space for the footpath, cycle path and the left hand filter lane for motor vehicles. In addition to this we would suggest the installation of chicanes in Westminster Road in order to discourage / divert traffic from this route whilst trialling the new 20 mph limit.'

9. A further report was then prepared and presented to both the Executive Member for City Strategy and the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 7th December 2010. This was subsequently 'called in' and a further report has been commissioned from officers on the consequences of reinstating the left turn lane, without cycle lane, at the Water End/Clifton Green junction. This will be presented to the Executive Member for City Strategy at a future Decision Session

Recommendation 2

10. The Assistant Director (Strategic Planning & Transport) has provided the following update:

'As part of the ongoing development of transport improvement schemes officers have increased the focus given to the impact on adjacent streets. For example from the current programme of schemes, this will be relevant to schemes such as Blossom Street Phase 2 and Fishergate Gyratory.'

Recommendation 3

The Assistant Director (Strategic Planning & Transport) has provided the following update:

'Reviews of highway schemes are undertaken for both safety and wider evaluation purposes. There are particular guidance requirements for

undertaking safety audits at scheme completion and post completion stages. The wider evaluation of schemes is done as a matter of practice rather than as a result of formal policy. Given the agreement to this the recommendation practice can now allow for a review to be undertaken after three months if unforeseen circumstances arise or Ward Members request. If concerns are safety based, the existing safety audit process will provide a means to do this.'

Consultation

11. Updates have been provided by the relevant officers within the Council.

Options

12. Members can choose to sign off fully implemented some or none of the recommendations arising from the Water End CCfA.

Analysis

13. It is good practice for scrutiny committees to receive regular updates on progress made in implementing recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews and Councillor Call for Actions. At the last meeting of this Committee in December 2010 Members received an update report regarding Recommendation 1 of the CCfA. Work is ongoing regarding this recommendation and a further report has been commissioned and it would, therefore, not be appropriate to sign this recommendation off as complete.
14. Updates have been received in relation to Recommendations 2 and 3 of the CCfA and Members should consider whether they are happy to sign these recommendations off as having been fully implemented.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

15. This topic does not fall directly in line with any of the themes in the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012. However the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee had an obligation to address the issues raised within the CCfA.

Implications

16. **Financial** – There are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report. However financial implications may become apparent in relation to ongoing work on Recommendation 1 arising from the CCfA and these will be reported appropriately.
17. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report.
18. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

19. There are no known equalities, property, crime and disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

20. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

21. Members are asked to note the update on Recommendation 1 and consider whether they wish to sign off recommendation 2 and/or 3 arising from the CCfA as complete.

Reason: To raise awareness of recommendations that still need to be implemented.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Clifton Ward

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Executive Papers - 6th July 2010

Executive Member for City Strategy Decision Session Papers – 7th December 2010

Scrutiny Management Calling In Papers – 20th December 2010

Executive Calling in Papers – 21st December 2010

Associated minutes pertaining to the above reports

Annexes

None