

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

## **Proposed Scrutiny Topic – City Centre Access**

### **Summary**

1. This report asks Members to consider whether they would like to set up an ad hoc scrutiny committee to undertake a review into the proposed Scrutiny Topic at Annex A to this report. Councillor Gillies, who has submitted the topic, has been invited to the meeting to speak about the proposals in the annex.

### **Background**

2. In June 2011 Councillor Gillies submitted a scrutiny topic in relation to access and foot street enforcement in the city centre. This proposed topic was subsequently considered at the recent scrutiny work planning event and it was decided that the topic should go ahead; it was allocated to the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with the possibility that it could be held jointly with the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
3. However, further discussions with officers and Councillor Gillies led to the decision that the formation of an ad hoc scrutiny committee would be an alternative way forward, as the topic potentially cut across the remits of several of the standing scrutiny committees.

### **Consultation**

4. Consultation on whether to progress this topic to review was undertaken at the recent scrutiny work planning event.
5. Recent conversations between the scrutiny officer and Councillor Gillies led to the following possible focus for the review being discussed; however the final clarity to the exact focus for the review

would be agreed by any ad hoc committee set up to undertake the work:

*How do we minimise the amount of vehicles in the city centre during footstreet hours to ensure the safety of pedestrians?*

1. *Are the current footstreet hours right? Are the right streets included?*
2. *Do changes need to be made to the (City Centre Area Action Plan/City Centre Access Study/Footstreets Policy) to ensure@*
  - *Appropriate disabled access and parking provision*
  - *The safety of pedestrians during footstreet hours*
  - *City centre cycling storage facilities*
3. *How could City of York Council and the Police improve partnership working in order to fully enforce the 'footstreets policy' including understanding;*
  - *'Who is responsible for what*
  - *The current barriers to enforcing the policy*

## **Options**

6. Members have the following options:
  - Set up an ad hoc scrutiny committee to undertake the review
  - Refer the topic back to the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **Analysis**

7. Members are asked to consider the information contained in this report and that attached at Annex A to this report and consider whether they wish to undertake a review on this topic.
8. Members are advised to set up an ad hoc scrutiny committee that would report back to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). It is recommended that this committee be made up of 5 Scrutiny Members on a 3:1:1 basis (3 Labour Members, 1 Conservative Member and 1 Liberal Democrat Member). Members could be drawn from any of the standing Scrutiny Committees or from SMC itself and it is suggested that Members may wish to volunteer on the basis of interest in the subject matter.

9. If an ad hoc committee is set up to undertake the review then the first meeting it has should be for the purpose of completing the Topic Assessment Form in its entirety (Annex A refers).

### **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

10. The proposed topic is linked to both the Inclusive City and Safer City themes of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

### **Implications**

11. Financial – There are no known financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report, however implications may arise as the review progresses.
12. Human Resources – There are no Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, implications may arise as the review progresses.
13. Legal – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, implications may arise as the review progresses.
14. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

16. Members are asked to:
  - i. Set up an ad hoc scrutiny committee to undertake this review
  - ii. Invite the Groups to nominate, to Democratic Services, any Members who wish to volunteer to be part of the Task Group.

## Contact Details

**Author:**

Tracy Wallis  
Scrutiny Services  
Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01904 551714

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Andrew Docherty  
Assistant Director Governance & ICT  
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved

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**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

Wards Affected: Guildhall

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes****Annex A** Topic Assessment Form (One Page Strategy)