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**Traffic Congestion Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee**      25 September 2007

**Interim Report**

**Background**

1. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Scrutiny Management Team recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

2. **Aim**

To identify ways including Local Transport Plans 1 & 2 (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**

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. Accessibility to services, employment, education and health
- ii. Air Quality, in particular looking at the five hotspots identified in the LTP2
- iii. Alternative environmentally viable and financially practical methods of transport
- iv. CO<sup>2</sup> Emissions
- v. Journey times and reliability of public transport
- vi. Economic Performance
- vii. Quality of Life
- viii. Road Safety

**Information Gathered**

2. A table containing the information gathered in respect of objectives (i)-(v) is attached at Annex A.
3. This table includes:
  - the possible solutions identified by this committee in regard to the issues raised in relation to objectives (i)-(v);
  - the recognised impact of the suggested solutions;
  - draft recommendations

## **Outstanding Issues**

4. Members have yet to consider the three remaining objectives listed below:
  - vi. Economic Performance
  - vii. Quality of Life
  - viii. Road Safety
5. Furthermore, there are a number of impediments to traffic flow that are not covered by the objectives of this review. Members may wish to request information on these impediments, which include:
  - Utility works on the highway
  - Road works on the highway
  - Accidents on the highway
  - Junctions
  - Signals and crossings
  - Traffic calming measures
  - On street parking
  - Public events and school terms
  - Inner city goods deliveries
6. At a meeting on 4 September, Members considered an article from Cycle Digest 2007 relating to a study on Commuter Cycling. It was agreed to defer consideration of the non powered and cycling issues raised in the study until a future meeting. The Assistant Director of City Development & Transport has therefore suggested looking in more detail at:
  - Cycling and other alternative methods of public transport with a view to finding ways of minimising journeys by car, and maximising the shift to other forms of transport which have a lesser impact on the highway;
  - Ways of optimising the network i.e. access control, road pricing, network management, bus priority, extension of Park & Ride, improvements to outer ring road
7. In order to ensure full consideration is given to all of the issues surrounding traffic congestion in York, it is recognised that this committee would require an extension to the agreed timeframe set by Scrutiny Management Committee for this review.
8. Finally, in order to engage public opinion on the draft findings of this Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee, Members may wish to engage with residents via survey or open day, so that their views can be included in the final draft report for this review.

## **Options**

8. Having regard to the aims and objectives of this topic remit and having considered the information provided in this report and Annex A, Members may wish to:

- agree any further information to be added to the table relating to key objectives (i) – (v) ;
- agree how much additional time will be required to conclude this review in order that a request for an extension can be made to Scrutiny Management Committee
- agree a series of meeting dates and a workplan for those meetings
- agree whether to seek residents views on the findings from this review prior to submission of a draft final report to Scrutiny Management Committee

## Corporate Priorities

9. It is recognised that any recommendations made as a result of this scrutiny review could contribute to Corporate Priority no 2 – To increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

## Implications

10. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications associated with this report.

## Recommendations

11. Members are asked to:
  - i. Note all of the information provided, and agree any further information to be included in that table shown at Annex A
  - ii. Agree what further information is required from officers
  - iii. Agree how much additional time will be required to conclude this review
  - iv. Agree some further meeting dates and a workplan for those meetings
  - v. Agree whether to seek residents views on the findings from this review prior to submission of a draft final report to Scrutiny Management Committee

Reason: To ensure full consideration of all the objectives

## Contact Details

### Author:

Melanie Carr  
Scrutiny Officer  
Scrutiny Services  
Tel 01904 552063

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Colin Langley  
Interim Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

**Interim Report Approved**  **Date** 17 September 2007

### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** Interim report dated 4 September 2007

**Annexes**

Annex A – Table of findings, identified solutions with impact evaluation, and draft recommendations (to follow)