

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:

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. CO² Emissions
- v. Journey times and reliability of public transport
- vi. Economic Performance
- vii. Quality of Life
- viii. Road Safety

Information Gathered

2. At a meeting on 25 September 2007, Members considered a draft table containing the findings in relation to objectives (i)-(v). This table included:
 - 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
3. Having considered the content provided, Members agreed to provide further information for inclusion in the table shown at Annex A and an updated version of this will be circulated once Members have had the opportunity to respond.

4. At the meeting on 25 September, Members agreed to request an extension to the timeframe for this review in order that the following additional meetings can be held:

Suggested Meeting Dates	To consider papers on:
16 October 2007	Impediments to traffic flow
19 November 2007 at 6pm	Cycling and other alternative methods of public transport
12 December 2007 at 5pm	Ways of optimising the network
16 January 2008 at 5pm	Objectives (vi) Economic Performance & (vii) Quality of life
18 February 2008 at 6pm	Objective (vii) Road Safety
10 March 2008 at 5pm	Final draft report

Outstanding Issues

5. In order to allow officers sufficient time to produce the paper on 'Impediments to Traffic Flow', it has not been included as an annex to this report but will be circulated at the meeting.
6. In regard to objectives (vi) and (vii), Members have recognised that it will be necessary to commission some consultants to carry out the required research and a quote has for this now been provided – see Annex B.
7. Members have expressed an interest in attending the second annual Road User Charging Seminar on 10 October 2007. Due to the tight timescale for arranging attendance at this seminar, it is not clear at this stage whether any Members of this committee will be able to attend. However, if they do they will be asked to report back to the committee at this meeting.
8. It has also been suggested that residents be consulted on the draft recommendations arising from the findings of this Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee, so that their views can be included in the final draft report. Members agreed to give this some more consideration later in the year.
9. Therefore, in order to finance the commissioning of consultants, attendance at the seminar and completion of a residents survey, it will be necessary to increase the scrutiny budget available 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 any Member feedback from the seminar, Members may wish to agree:
 - any further information to be added to the table relating to key objectives (i) – (v) ;
 - how to proceed with the investigation of objectives (vi) & (vii) in light of the quote provided

- Whether a request for an increase in scrutiny budget be made to Scrutiny Management Committee to cover:
 - i) the cost of the use of Consultants
 - ii) attendance at the Seminar for up to two Members
 - iii) the costs of carrying out a survey of residents views

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 HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, or IT implications associated with this report, but there will be some financial implications associated with recommendation (iii). As yet the exact amount is unknown.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to:
 - i. Note all of the information provided, and agree any further information to be included in the table
 - ii. agree how to proceed with the investigation of objectives (vi) & (vii)
 - iii. agree whether to request an increase in scrutiny budget, and if so agree how much is required

Reason: To ensure full consideration of all the objectives

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Interim Report Approved



Date 4 October 2007

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: Interim reports dated 4th & 25th September 2007

Annexes

- Annex A – Draft table of findings, identified solutions with impact evaluation, and draft recommendations
- Annex B – Quote for commissioning Consultants