

ANNEXE ONE: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONGESTION COMMISSION FOR YORK

Purpose

To consider ways to alleviate road congestion in York and make strategic recommendations to the Council.

Scope

- Mechanisms for reducing congestion on the highways of York, especially in the city centre, and in particular options focused on modal shift, parking management and network services; and
- Recommendations for implementing such mechanisms, with particular regard to
 - improving the economic capacity of the city centre,
 - improving its environmental and air quality and
 - enhancing the quality of life of York residents and visitors

Parameters

The Commission will work towards preparing strategic recommendations within certain parameters:

- a timeline to 2041 (consistent with the 15+10 year approach envisaged in the current Publication Draft Local Plan
- assumptions of housing growth not exceeding the annualised average 926 as agreed by the Local Plan Working Group in December 2014 and as far as possible consistent with the emerging Local Plan
- continuing the long-term commitment of York to sustainable travel using all alternative means of transport
- continuing the core importance of the city centre as York's economic motor
- and consistency with the priority economic sectors as set out in relevant strategies and the Strategic Economic Plans of both LEAs
- acceptance of the foreseeable financial constraints on local authorities and central government

Principles of operating

- Independent expertise in the debate and an independent chair
- Cross party participation from elected politicians
- Promoting public engagement and understanding of the issues
- Public and published
- Time limited
- Open-minded: all options on the table
- Evidence based and rigorous in the consideration of options

- Within a budget
- Making recommendations which are technically feasible and financially plausible

Membership

The Commission will have not more than 9 members, of whom not more than 4 will be elected members of City of York Council.

The three largest political parties represented on the Council will each have one nominee, made by the Leader of that party on the Council. The fourth member will be nominated by the remaining members of the Council.

The Chair of the Congestion Commission will be an external and independent expert, who will be appointed by the Cabinet of City of York Council.

The remaining independent members of the Commission will be appointed from a pool approved by the Cabinet by the Director of City and Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and the Chair of the Commission. They will be asked to contribute their expertise and professionalism to enable York to make a step-change, beyond the already existing interventions, in its management of congestion over the next 25 years.

Timescale and work programme

The Commission is expected to start work after agreement by Cabinet and relevant call-in processes (anticipated in February 2015) and report by the end of October 2015. Its work programme, in particular the work of community participation, will be as approved in outline by the Cabinet.

Resources

The Commission will be expected to oversee the work programme within the budget approved by Cabinet and drawing upon allocated officer expertise.

Remuneration of external Commissioners

External commissioners will all receive the same remuneration of £400 per day plus reasonable travel expenses. Part days will be remunerated pro rata as percentages of an 8 hour day.