

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

Information Gathered

2. At meetings held on 25 September and 16 October 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. Members agreed to provide further information for inclusion in the table shown at Annex A. As no updates have been received to date, the extension to the

timeframe for this review previously agreed by this committee may no longer be viable. Once Members have had the opportunity to respond, an updated version of the table together with an interim report will be presented to SMC requesting an extension to the timeframe for this review.

4. At the meeting on 16 October Members also considered a paper on 'Impediments to Traffic Flow' which highlighted a number of issues not covered by the objectives. In regard to the problems identified with school runs and on-street parking in the vicinity of schools. Information on the national and local perspective on school travel can be found in Annex B. Members also requested that a school be identified that had a good record in encouraging alternative transport modes so that the measures they had put in place could be looked at - see Annexes C-D.

Outstanding Issues

5. Having considered a quote from Consultants in regard to objectives (vi) and (vii), Members requested a revised quote based on a more focused remit to ensure the findings were less about providing statistics and more about identifying what the Council could practically do to make improvements (revised quote to follow).
6. In order to further consider the cycling issues raised at the meeting held in September 2007, the Assistant Director of City Development & Transport has provided a paper – see Annex E.
7. 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 requested some further information on the best way to do this and a meeting has been arranged with Marketing & Communications on 15 November 2007. An update will be provided at this meeting.
8. Members need to bear in mind that as any draft recommendations made by this Ad-hoc scrutiny committee have to be agreed by the Executive, any consultation based on them will need to be handled sensitively.
9. It is recognised that it will be necessary to increase the scrutiny budget available for this review, in order to finance the commissioning of consultants, and completion of a residents survey. Any request for this will need to be included in the interim report to SMC referred to in paragraph 3 above.

Options

8. Having regard to the aims and objectives of this topic remit, and having considered the information provided in this report, 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 revised quote provided
- how much of an increase in scrutiny budget to request from Scrutiny Management Committee to cover:
 - i) the cost of the use of Consultants
 - ii) 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 arrangements for finalising any further information to be included in the table, as referred to in paragraph 3 above
 - ii. agree how to proceed with the investigation of objectives (vi) & (vii)
 - iii. agree whether to request as an increase in scrutiny budget for this review

Reason: To ensure full consideration of all the objectives

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Interim Report Approved



Date 9 November 2007

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: Interim reports dated 4th & 25th September 2007 and 16th October 2007

Annexes

- Annex A – Draft table of findings, identified solutions with impact evaluation, and draft recommendations
- Annex B – National & local perspective on school travel
- Annex C – Information on modes of transport used by pupils in York schools
- Annex D – Example of school travel plan (Park Grove Primary School)
- Annex E – Paper on the cycling issues faced in York