

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL DECISIONS
27 February 2024

PROCEDURAL MATTERS – MEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Question submitted by George Potter

Paragraph 16 of the report notes many of the stakeholders whose views were sought as part of the engagement exercise. Additional stakeholders who responded to the engagement, but are not mentioned, include The Clockhouse retirement home, amongst others. It is my understanding is that the vast majority of these stakeholders expressed support for the scheme, including the borough council, Stagecoach buses, and every school along the route of the scheme. Additionally, George Abbot school reported that a survey of their students resulted in hundreds of responses from students who said they would wish to cycle to school if it was safer to do so. Why have the views of all of these stakeholders, whether for or against the scheme, not been mentioned in this report, and what were those views? How have the views of these stakeholders been taken into account in the production of the recommendations in this report?

Separately, the design for section 1 clearly represents a dramatic improvement in safety and accessibility for pedestrians compared to the current situation along London Road. Can you clarify what the further design review for section 1 will entail, and please can you confirm that the design review will not result in the loss of Active Travel England funding required for the implementation of section 1?

Reply:

The engagement involved both quantitative and qualitative inputs which were submitted during the process and were reflected in the engagement report. The two face to face engagement sessions with George Abbot pupils have been referenced within the report as well as the letter of support received from the headteacher. In addition, we held a face to face session with the residents of Clockhouse, which has also been referenced in the report.

As both the decision and engagement reports outline, the themes from all the quantitative and qualitative inputs show a balance of views which have been considered when making the recommendations. The comments of residents and the groups, where we held face to face engagements, are reflected in the themed responses as part of the engagement report rather than being individually attributable.

The George Abbot survey was carried out prior to the engagement period and was not submitted as part of the formal engagement process, therefore, it was not specifically included in the report.

The design review will be focused on considering the comments made concerning road widths and shared use paths, and will include independent analysis of the proposal in relation to these elements. Active travel England remain supportive of the scheme and there is no identified risk to funding caused by the design review.

Tim Oliver
Leader of the Council
27 February 2024

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