



Leicester
City Council

Extract of the minutes of the Meeting of the
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 14 JULY 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Thompson - Chair
Councillor Ramsdale - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson
Councillor Connelly - Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Bhatti

Councillor Henry

Councillor Panchbhaya

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12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No such declarations were made at this time.

15. UPPERTON ROAD VIADUCT MAJOR SCHEME BID PROPOSAL

The Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development submitted a report that sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee, prior to the report being referred to Cabinet, on proposals to submit a Major Scheme Bid to the Department for Transport (DfT), by 31 July 2003. The bid would be in the sum of £19 million to cover the cost of the replacement of the Upperton Road Viaduct.

Officers outlined in detail the four options considered as part of the public consultation process and reported that, following this consultation, no option had emerged as a clear favourite. Officers were however of the opinion, following investigative work by consultants Babbie, that Option 'C', the replacement of the existing viaduct by a new low-level road and new low-level bridge over the old River Soar, on the line of the existing viaduct, was the most favourable.

Following discussion the Scrutiny Committee were generally agreed that Option 'C' was the most favourable but expressed concern at the proposed

'toucan' crossing at the junction of Great Central Way and Upperton Road and of the possible conflict between cyclists, pedestrians and motor vehicles at this location. Further concerns were expressed regarding the construction phase of the new road and of the need to retain 2-way traffic along Upperton Road during this period, at weekends, particularly Saturdays, as well as weekdays to avoid disrupting other arterial routes in the City.

RESOLVED:

that Cabinet be informed that the Scrutiny Committee generally support the recommendations outlined in the report but that: -

- 1) the Scrutiny Committee has concerns over the safety aspects of the proposed toucan crossing for cyclists and pedestrians using the Great Central Way and wish to have these concerns addressed at the detailed design stage.
- 2) The implications of the disruptive effects on the other East-West traffic flows in the City needs to be addressed at the detailed design stage with a view to minimising disruption for other arterial routes, particularly outside of peak hours and, in particular, on Saturdays when nearby local sporting venues are in use. The Scrutiny Committee expect to see the restrictions considered during the detailed negotiations with the successful contractor.