

PROFORMA

REFERRAL OF A KEY DECISION TO THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

For the attention of: Victoria Lower, Democratic Services & Scrutiny
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Meeting:
Meeting Date:
Agenda Item No:

The constitution of the low traffic neighborhood (LTN) in Crystal Palace and South Norwood / introduction of experimental traffic management order etc

Reasons for referral:

- i) The decision is outside of the Policy Framework: Yes
 - ii) The decision is inconsistent with the budget
 - iii) The decision is inconsistent with another Council Policy: Yes
 - iv) Other: Please specify: Yes (see below)
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Outside policy framework (evidence-based policy making)

No evidence of positive change – no baseline assessment was conducted prior to the introduction of the scheme. As such there is no evidence that this scheme is improving local air quality or any other aspect of the local environment. We are being asked to rely on intuitive assumptions or studies from outside the area. Some studies indicate that low traffic neighborhoods are bad for the local environment. This does not seem to have been fully considered by the council.

Fiscally motivated – the introduction of ANPR cameras looks set to raise over £3million for the council. Increased revenue figures from ANPR technology have been included in early versions of the emergency budget. There is a huge concern that this decision has been motivated by the council's financial crisis and as such, pre-determined prior to the beginning of the consultation.

Inconsistent with another council policy (bad for business)

Bad for local businesses – the council has identified supporting local businesses as a corporate priority. But these measures are bad for business. They risk driving away footfall. At a time when businesses are already struggling because of the Covid-19 crisis and corresponding lockdowns/social media, there is a strong feeling that the council should be going out of its way to show support. Not introduce experimental

schemes.

Other: lack of opportunity for member scrutiny

Lack of opportunity for members to scrutinise – this decision has never been properly discussed and debated at cabinet or full council. It was discussed at TMAC but given the scale of opposition to it as expressed through the consultation, more debate by members would be appropriate.

The outcome desired:

Scrutiny to have confidence that members have properly had chance to question and scrutinise the policy

Scrutiny to have confidence the policy has been based on evidence

Scrutiny to have confidence that the policy is not fiscally motivated

Scrutiny to have confidence that the policy does not harm local businesses

Information required to assist the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to consider the referral:

All evidence around the impact of LTNs, including studies that suggest negative impact

Evidence of a timeline of decision making. This should include a breakdown of the ANPR figures in the emergency budget. Which cameras were expected to generate the revenue?

Signed: Gareth Streeter, Opposition spokesperson for Environment, Transport and Regeneration

Date: 22/01/2021

Member of _____ Committee