



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION

Date:	10 th June 2018
Name of person proposing topic:	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Contact:	klara.sudbury@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Suggested title of topic:	Scrutiny review of Cheltenham Transport Plan phases 1-3 and to provide overview and scrutiny of Phase 4, the Boots Corner Experimental TRO.

What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?

Review Phase 1-3 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan, to ensure there are no issues arising from them that have been missed by Cheltenham Borough Council or Gloucestershire County Council.

To provide an overview and scrutiny of the Experimental TRO/Phase 4 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan closing 'Boots Corner', Clarence Parade, Clarence Street, North Street, Pittville Street, High Street (part of), Promenade/Colonnade and Imperial Circus to most through traffic.

What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review (outcomes)

Outcomes:

- Ensure that previous phases 1-3 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan are working effectively, scrutiny working group to be provided with all congestion and pollution data collected from before and after the implementation of stages 1-3, hear from local residents and businesses to find out if there are issues that have been missed and recommend mitigation works to reduce the impact of the changes if necessary.

During the 18 months of the phase 4 trial:

- Provide member input and local knowledge into the siting of permanent and temporary pollution monitors as well as when and where traffic flow away from Boots Corner is being measured
- Receive and consider detailed evidence from the monitoring of traffic and pollution in other residential areas
- Ensure that monitoring of displaced congestion and associated pollution is appropriate and that there are no gaps which could leave problems unnoticed
- Provide a mechanism for back bench councillors whose wards might be affected by the traffic displaced from Boots Corner to have oversight of and feedback into the trial
- Ensure that any surveying of the views of businesses and residents is collected by an Independent organisation with relevant experience to ensure the results are credible
- Hear directly from representatives of local residents/businesses/schools in streets where monitoring shows there is increased congestion and pollution
- Be provided with full details of all responses received during the consultation period for Phase 4 to scrutinise that feedback and ensure all views express have been taken account of
- Make recommendations as necessary regarding where mitigation may be needed or changes to Phase 4 to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of residents of Cheltenham
- Hear from representatives from groups representing people with sensory, physical or other disability to effectively scrutinise any permanent changes to the public

<p>realm at Boots Corner and ensure they are fully inclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a recommendation to the Traffic Regulation Order Committee as to whether or not the TRO should be made permanent 	
<p>If there a strict time constraint?</p>	<p>The scrutiny working group would need to be up and running as soon as possible to review phases 1-3 whilst phase 4 beds in and then be ready to scrutinise the data etc. from that as it comes in.</p>
<p>Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?</p>	<p>The Cheltenham Transport Plan will affect every single person living or working in Cheltenham in one way or another. The input from backbench councillors has been very limited to date. If the TRO is to be made permanent the outcome could be much improved by the way O&S can look deeply into this issue, something which can't happen at Council meetings or during member's seminars. The future economic success of our town centre depends on this plan creating a pleasant welcoming space at Boots Corner, whilst also still retaining access for people with disabilities and protecting the health and wellbeing of the many residents who may end up with more congestion outside their homes.</p>
<p>Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?</p>	<p>There are a lot of people, even those who support the transport plan and its aims, who worry about the impact of displaced congestion, and impact on disabled people of changing access to the town centre and creating a shared space with a large number of very large vehicles still travelling through.</p>
<p>Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?</p>	<p>'We have improved connectivity including our cycling, walking, public transport and digital infrastructure' - Implement Phase 4 of Cheltenham Transport Plan – the trial closure of Boots corner and monitor the impact.</p> <p>'Champions physical and mental wellbeing' – there is potential for the physical and mental wellbeing of many of the town's residents to be harmed by the effects of increased pollution and traffic noise and vibration by their homes.</p> <p>'We ensure that all our residents, businesses and visitors feel safe' – safety concerns of shared space at Boots Corner for people with sensory disabilities.</p>
<p>Any other comments:</p> <p>I have asked for this scrutiny review because the Cheltenham Transport Plan is a hugely significant issue for Cheltenham. It has been planned as THE way our town centre retail area will be more attractive and successful and so scrutinising that to help ensure this really is the case is vital. The traffic modelling does show traffic will increase in residential areas which also needs very close scrutiny.</p>	

OFFICER IMPLICATIONS (for office use only)

Date:	12/06/2018
Officer name:	Tracey Crews
Officer title:	Director of Planning
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Please give your comments on this proposed topics, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resources constraints etc

Phases 1 -3 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan have all been subject to monitoring and through this monitoring changes implemented to ensure the changes work effectively. The reason why the plan was broken down into phases was to build in monitoring and changes as required. The monitoring reports for phases 1 – 3 are public documents and can be made available to the Scrutiny Committee.

A member seminar was undertaken on 5th June, this meeting was well attended and some of the issues raised in this request to scrutiny were identified.

- In response to members questions around air quality a further member seminar is being organised so that members can discuss the detail of air quality monitoring in respect of the Phase 4 trial with specialist officers in the context of the wider borough and implications on air quality.
- Impact on individuals with mobility issues. Officers advised that active engagement is in place with accessibility group, disable spaces removed have been recreated in car parking, greater awareness being drawn to Shopmobility scheme.

Officers have an open dialogue with all members and are happy to receive input on the points above and wider issues; and respond to implications arising as we proceed through the trial; this would be a more responsive approach to dealing with any issues as they arise.

Phase 4 is subject the subject of a Traffic Regulation Order consultation and it is important that communities and businesses directly engage with this process

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/major-projects/cheltenham-transport-plan/phase-4-boots-corner-trial/>

It is acknowledged that Phase 4 of the Cheltenham Transport Plan is a major project and there is a clear value to scrutiny. As advised through the member seminar, it is important that we give a suitable amount of time to allow the Phase 4 trial to bed-in and also to collect sufficient data over time which enables effective analysis. Scrutiny too early would not provide members with sufficient information to provide guidance, nor allow enough time to understand how traffic patterns have settled down and how communities and business have been affected.

I would suggest the following;

- Presentation by GCC to the Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of phases 1 -3, update on findings from the monitoring data and resultant changes made to enable the trial of Phase 4 to begin.
- Scrutiny Committee to receive an update report on monitoring against an agreed timeline, enabling Committee to engage directly with officers on potential modifications/interventions during the course of the trial.
- Scrutiny to receive a review of the TRO consultation responses and undertake a review of the Cheltenham Transport Plan as a whole (phases 1 – 4) and for GCC to

consider this as formal evidence ahead of a decision being made on the outcome of the trial.

It should be noted that requests regarding a different approach to surveying public and business perception over and above that already identified will have a budgetary implication. Officers are reviewing the implications of this and working with the lead Member in respect of impact on the budget.