



**Customer and Workforce Services
Directorate**

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Our reference C/EMK
10th April, 2012

Dear

Petition – Keep the Shared Spaces Experiment

I refer to the above e-petition which was considered at the Cabinet Member (City Services) meeting on Tuesday 28th February, 2012. I write to inform you that at this meeting Councillor Harvard took account of this petition which concerned the 'Shared Space' concept introduced at junctions in the city centre as part of the Coventry 2012 Public Realm Improvements. The transformation of the city centre included changes to the look and feel of the streets to create a low speed, more pedestrian friendly environment which was supported by a 20mph zone.

Councillor Harvard also took into account the issues contained in the report of the Director of City Services and Development and the presentation and responses from officers. He noted that, in response to suggestions made by Disabled Groups, Coventry had adopted some rather than all of the principles of the shared space concept. The layouts at the Hales Street Junction and Gosford Street junction still maintained the traditional segregation of footway and carriageway with vehicles and pedestrians separated by the presence of a 40mm kerb face. The removal of traffic control and priority meant drivers were forced to slow down, interact with each other and exercise caution. He noted it was too early to conclude on the success of the scheme but early data collection at the Gosford Street scheme had shown mean speeds had dropped by nearly 6mph and operating efficiency had improved with no vehicle queuing observed at peak periods.

Councillor Harvard decided:



(i) to endorse the continued implementation of the 'low speed environment' principle as part of the Public Realm schemes associated with the Coventry 2012 project;

(ii) to approve to the continued detailed monitoring of the new road layout through traffic, personal injury accidents and speed data surveys;

(iii) to approve that a funding allocation be made to the Visual and Impairment Team to provide additional rehabilitation resources to retrain visually impaired service users to enable them to be confident that they can use the new road layouts safely.

The report was subsequently called in and the issue was considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 21st March.

Having questioned the officers and considered the comments of the Members supporting the Call-in, the Committee requested:

- That Officers explore the inclusion of Shared Spaces information on the Council's Smartapp for the Olympics
- Consideration be given to the installation of Pelican crossings in the City Centre, where appropriate, to assist the visually impaired.
- The monitoring of Shared Spaces be enhanced during the Olympics, when there would be many visitors to the City.
- Following the implementation of each Shared Space, monitoring reports be submitted to Economy, Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 3) and Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 4) at the following intervals: 3 months after implementation, 6 months after implementation, 12 months after implementation, then follow the formal monitoring process thereafter.
- Monitoring reports to include the number of accidents, the range of vehicle speeds, traffic volume, pedestrian movement and proposals to address/modifications required for problems identified.

The Committee decided:

(i) to concur with the decision of Cabinet Member (City Services) as set out above;

(ii) that Officers explore the inclusion of Shared Spaces information on the Council's Smartapp for the Olympics:

(iii) that following the implementation of each Shared Space, monitoring reports be submitted to Economy, Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 3) and Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Board (Scrutiny Board 4) as set out above.

No doubt you will inform the petitioners accordingly.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Liz Knight
Governance Services Officer