

## ASSEMBLY

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

### REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

<b>Petition regarding road safety and traffic management in Salisbury Avenue</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>The Council has received a petition containing 130 signatures and addresses requesting measures to improve road safety and traffic management in Salisbury Avenue, Barking. In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, officers are to consult with the lead petitioner Mrs J Melis to ascertain further information and Mrs Melis has been invited to the meeting of the Assembly to present the petition.</p> <p>Residents are concerned about the speed of traffic travelling along Salisbury Avenue and their concerns have been heightened by a tragic accident when a young child was killed. This is the subject of a Police investigation and it is therefore inappropriate to discuss that particular issue further at the Assembly.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this point, the recommendations of this report are to immediately arrange to fully investigate the issues raised in the petition and to take full account of the Police findings once they are published and available in relation to any highway issues.</p> <p>The petition states:-</p> <p><b><i>“We the undersigned want Barking and Dagenham Council to strongly enforce the speed limits through the introduction of speed breakers/humps on the entire stretch of Salisbury Avenue. We further demand the Council to consult the residents of the neighbourhood over additional measures such as design revisit on no-entries, CCTV, increased patrols, etc that ensure safer roads and curb over-speeding”</i></b></p> <p>The Council has already introduced traffic management measures in Salisbury Avenue such that vehicular traffic is not able to enter from either Upney Lane or Station Parade. This has significantly reduced the volume of traffic using this road.</p> <p>Care always needs to be taken to ensure that any measures introduced do not have an adverse effect on adjacent roads. However, this area (bounded by Longbridge Road on the north and Upney Lane in the East) has relatively few traffic accidents.</p> <p>It is recommended that by working with residents, portfolio holders, and local ward councillors an action plan for the area should be achievable and financial bids can be based on community acceptance of such proposals.</p> <p><b>Wards Affected: Abbey and Longbridge</b></p>	
<p><b>Implications:</b></p> <p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>The cost of the review can be contained within existing budgets. Bids will be made</p>	

subsequently to achieve any implementation works that are contained in the action plan.

**Legal:**

The Highways Act 1980 obliges a Highway Authority to maintain the highway. This petition arises out of a specific incident. That matter is the subject of a police investigation and an inquest. As such it would not be appropriate to discuss the incident at the Assembly meeting. The debate should be limited to issues of road safety more generally.

In accordance with the Council's procedures for petitions, if the lead petitioner is not satisfied with the way the Council has dealt with their petition, they have the right for the matter to be referred to the appropriate Select Committee as determined by the Designated Scrutiny Officer. Should the Select Committee consider the response to the petition was not adequate, it may be referred back to the Assembly for further debate, the outcome of which will be the final decision on the matter. (The subject matter of this petition would fall within the terms of reference of the Living and Working Select Committee).

**Risk Management:** No specific implications.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity:**

If a review of the area is agreed, consideration of additional and/or beneficial facilities for disabled people will be contained within the scope of consideration. The Council's Access Officer and the Access Group will be asked for their opinion and this will be fed into the review findings

**Crime and Disorder:** No specific implications.

**Recommendation(s)**

- (i) To acknowledge the concerns of the residents
- (ii) To ensure that officers, ward councillors and the respective portfolio holders work with the community to prepare an action plan for road safety and traffic management proposals for the Salisbury Avenue area
- (iii) That full account be taken within the review of any findings related to highway issues deriving from the Police investigation and any subsequent inquiries.

**Reason(s)**

To respond to resident concerns and to ensure that the highway in the Salisbury Avenue area is as safe as reasonably achievable.

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 A fatal accident in Salisbury Avenue has compelled local residents to seek the assistance of the Council to make the Salisbury Avenue area safer in terms of traffic management. The accident is the subject of a Police investigation and therefore cannot be discussed at the Assembly.
- 1.2 Salisbury Avenue is located between Upney Lane and Station Parade in Barking. Traffic is prohibited from entering at both junctions thereby reducing the historic use of this road as a rat-run.
- 1.3 Some roads in the Salisbury Avenue area (bounded by Longbridge Road and Upney Lane) have speed humps, Salisbury Avenue does not. The Police have undertaken a traffic volume and speed survey in Salisbury Avenue. The results are awaited.
- 1.4 Accident data is available for this area which shows relatively few accidents but, as with most roads, there is always the potential to improve safety

## 2. Report

- 2.1 The Council is able to commit to investigating traffic arrangements in the Salisbury Avenue area to coincide with the request of residents by the petition. Following the approval by the Assembly of the recommendations in this report, officers will meet with ward councillors and the lead petitioners to consider their concerns in detail.
- 2.2 Although the main issue raised in the petition relates to vehicle speed, there is also reference to other matters that can be examined such as CCTV and junction design. The Police enforce speed limits; the Council does not have that enforcement authority, however, the Council is able to introduce measures to inhibit the speed of vehicles. Speed reduction can be achieved by the introduction of various measures such as speed humps, speed cushions, speed tables, chicanes, pinch points, etc.
- 2.3 It is usual practice for residents to be consulted on the use of these measures. It is essential in such an exercise to engage the whole community and this is also covered in the petition. Working with ward councillors, the relevant portfolio holders and the lead petitioners, officers will be able to prepare physical options for improving road safety and managing traffic movement.

- 2.4 The findings of the Police investigations and the outcome of any other reports about highway condition in the area can be fed into the review. Unfortunately we do not know when the Police investigation will be concluded and therefore it is difficult to determine in detail a programme of action. However, it is envisaged that preparatory work will be concluded by the end of the year enabling a financial bid to be made for any works agreed.
- 2.5 At that time consideration will be given to seeking funding from Transport for London via the Local Implementation Plan route or seeking funding from the Council's resources to implement the action plan.

### **3 Customer Impact**

- 3.1 There is clear community concern at traffic and road safety conditions in the Salisbury Avenue area. The establishment of a review arrangement as set out in this report will demonstrate the Council's respect for the concerns of the community

#### **Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

Petition submitted by Mrs Melis

#### **Consultees:**

Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Crime, Justice and Communities

Councillor Vincent, Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Butt

Councillor Hussain

Councillor Saeed

Andrew Yellowley, Interim Divisional Director of Environment and Enforcement Services

Ruth Du-Lieu, Waste and Street Scene Strategy Project Leader

Philip Thurgood, Parking Services Manager

Winston Brown, Legal Partner Corporate Law and Employment