27th February 2019

Councillor Waseem Zaffar
Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Request for Call-in: Commonwealth Games (CWG) Perry Barr Highway Infrastructure – Options Appraisal

Dear Waseem

Thank you for attending the meeting on the 22nd February 2019 to deal with the request for call-in. As you are aware, the decision was not called in, but there is clearly a significant degree of anxiety about the proposals amongst local residents and local councillors and MPs. Many of these were raised by committee members in the course of the discussion.

The members of the scrutiny committee are very keen to ensure that the planned consultation on the proposals is meaningful. It was agreed at the call-in meeting that I would write to you on behalf of the committee setting out the main areas of concern and how the committee members would like to work with you on the co-design of the upcoming consultation.

It was also agreed that this item would remain on the Committee’s work programme for quarterly updates (and more frequent updates in the case of any further urgent concerns).

The committee welcomed your assurance that you would attend a future meeting ahead of the Full Business Case going to Cabinet in the Autumn in order to share feedback from the consultation and engagement exercise.

In relation to the consultation, Members were particularly concerned about a number of specific issues. I have attached these separately as a suggested ‘framework’ for working with the scrutiny committee in taking this forward.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Liz Clements
Chair, Sustainability & Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Framework

As part of the consultation and engagement exercise, the following issues should be taken into account and adequately reflected in future proposals. Specifically:

- That potential alternative options for providing vehicular access to the OneStop shopping centre are adequately explored;
- That assurance is provided that plans will be put in place to handle the significant displacement of traffic into neighbouring areas in the north of the city with suitable mitigations;
- That clear assurance is provided that there is an opportunity for the option being consulted upon to be changed as a result of feedback from the consultation;
- That the engagement and consultation exercises will be run in parallel so that the final option can be amended as appropriate in response to consultation feedback, within the given timeframe;
- That Plain English is used to explain the plans with pictorial maps in easy-to-understand format in CGI so that lay members of the public without technical expertise can understand what the proposed option will look like and what the implications are;
- That engagement and consultation will take place with councillors, MPs, local residents, stakeholders, businesses and others in the Perry Barr area and wider, including but not limited to:

ward councillors for Aston, Lozells, Oscott, Perry Barr, Birchfield, Kingstanding, Gravelly Hill, Stockland Green and Erdington; the MPs for Perry Barr, Erdington and Ladywood, and the owner and operator of the OneStop shopping centre.