



Deputation to Transport and Environment Committee meeting to be held on 12 October 2023 regarding item 7.4: East London Street

The New Town and Broughton Community Council welcomes the speed with which this matter has been brought back to Committee following the consideration of the petition in August but is concerned that the report contains incomplete and perhaps misleading information on which Councillors will be expected to make substantive decisions about the future of East London Street.

We are disappointed that the report presented to the Transport and Environment Committee does not make any recommendations to address the primary concern of the residents, namely the level of noise and vibration that is being generated by the volume of traffic passing over a poorly maintained setted road surface. This lack of recommended action appears to be based on a misinterpretation of the results of the noise survey conducted in December 2022. The attached report highlights a number of concerns with the presentation and interpretation of the data from this survey. We respectfully suggest that the concerns raised in this report are properly considered before the issue of excessive noise is dismissed.

There is also no recognition that due to the need to keep this road open while it was required as a diversion for the Trams and other road projects, there has been no significant maintenance conducted over the last three years. In section 4.7 it is stated that East London Street was only used as a diversion for “short periods”. This is not correct. All westbound traffic from London Road was diverted between Leith Street and East London Street for an extended period of time while Leith Walk, Picardy Place and York Place were unavailable. No information is included in the report on the current condition of the road surface nor any details of when it was last inspected.

We welcome the decision to undertake a new traffic volume and speed survey but are disappointed there are no plans to include the results of this survey in the decision-making process about the future of this street. The data from 2019 is unlikely to properly reflect current traffic volumes and speeds and therefore it is critical that updated information is used to inform any decisions that are made about the road surface and traffic calming. Given the concerns about the use of this street by out-of-service buses, we believe that it is important to ensure that the survey is able to distinguish between HGV's and PSV's. We therefore suggest that a video survey should be conducted to complement the standard tube survey.

We are pleased that East London Street is now part of the Council's atmospheric monitoring but as the first year's data will not be available until after February 2024, it appears premature to be making decisions about this road especially given that there is a school on this road. We have received representations from parents about the level of traffic on this street and the potential impact on the health of their children. We also note that there is a wider review ongoing to look at alternative routes for buses and other traffic which will not be completed until November 2023. We suggest that this is a further reason to delay any decisions about the long-term future of this street.

Mike Birch

Transport Convenor, New Town and Broughton Community Council

10 October 2023