



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 19th February 2008

Subject: Shared Spaces - Outcome of Consultation on the Street Design Guide

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board on 16th October 2007 considered a request for scrutiny from the Deputy Chair of the Alliance of Service Users and Carers concerning the City Development Department's proposals to expand the use of shared surfaces between vehicles and pedestrians.
- 1.2 Members were advised that the new draft 'Street Design Guide' was out for public consultation which would incorporate the use of shared surfaces.
- 1.3 The Board agreed that the City Development department submit a report to its meeting in January 2008 on the outcome of the consultation on the Street Design Guide in order to determine whether the concerns expressed by the various interest groups concerning shared surfaces had been taken into account and to determine if further scrutiny was required.
- 1.4 A copy of the relevant minute from the Board's meeting held on 16th October is attached for reference purposes.
- 1.5 The Director of City Development subsequently advised the Chair that it had continued to receive a number of comments after the closing date for consultation and that it had also been informed by the Government and the Guide Dogs for the Blind that they would both be bringing out new guidance on this issue in January 2008. As a consequence it was agreed that the department submit its report to today's meeting.

2.0 Outcome of Consultation – Shared Spaces & New Street Design Guide

2.1 The report of the Director of City Development is attached on the outcome of the consultation on shared surfaces and the new Street Design Guide. The report explains that shared space can be either shared area or shared surface.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Board is requested to:

- (i) Consider the report of the Director of City Development on the outcome of the consultation on shared spaces and the new Street Design Guide.
- (ii) Seek any points of clarification and ask questions of the officers attending this meeting.
- (iii) Review the request for scrutiny from the Deputy Chair of the Alliance of Service Users and Carers on proposals to expand the use of shared spaces following submission of the consultation outcome and determine whether the Board wishes to undertake further scrutiny of this matter and if so, what form this should take.

**EXTRACT FROM SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)
MINUTES 16TH OCTOBER 2007**

41 Request for Scrutiny regarding the Introduction of 'Home Zones'

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report outlining a request for Scrutiny from the Deputy Chair of the Alliance of Service Users and Carers concerning the City Development Department's proposals to expand the use of shared space between vehicles and pedestrians. Details of the request were attached to the report. The new draft 'Street Design Guide', which introduced the concept of 'Home Zones' that included the use of shared surfaces, was also attached for Members' information. Members had been advised that the new draft 'Street Design Guide' was out for public consultation during the period 14th September to 26th October 2007.

The Deputy Chair of the Alliance of Service Users and Carers, Mr Keith Spellman, attended the meeting to detail the reasons for his request for Scrutiny to the Board. Representatives from other organisations who had also objected to the proposals to increase the use of shared space were also present - these were Mr Naylor, National Federation of the Blind, Leeds Branch and Mr Jonathan Bentley, Director of Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People.

Members were advised that other correspondence had been received on this issue from Mr Peter Knott, Vision is not Essential (VINE), Ms Avril Gaunt, Leeds Jewish Blind Society, Mr T Davey, Talking Newspaper for the Blind for Otley and District and Mr Iain Warwick, RNIB, Leeds Branch. This correspondence had been circulated to the Board.

Jean Dent, Director of City Development, Mike Darwin, Head of Highways Development Services, City Development Department, and Gillian MacLeod, Principal Highways Development Engineer, City Development Department, were also in attendance to respond to questions from the Board.

Mr Spellman outlined for the Board why his group opposed the proposal for more shared surfaces.

In brief summary the following issues were discussed:

- The alleged lack of consultation.
- The consultation that had been carried out by the Department.
- Safety issues of disabled groups as well as issues regarding dignity, equality and inclusion in society for all groups of people.
- The problems of parking on pavements in general and enforcement.
- New high density housing developments built with seemingly little regard to parking provision.
- That the various disability groups met on a monthly basis and needed time to consult with their members.

In view of the comments made, the Director offered to extend the consultation period for the draft Design Guide by at least four weeks.

RESOLVED –

(a) That the request for Scrutiny from the Alliance of Service Users and Carers be noted.

(b) That the Department submit a report to the January 2008 meeting of the Board on the outcome of the consultation on the Street Design Guide in order to determine whether the concerns expressed by the various interest groups had been taken into account and to determine if further scrutiny was required.

(Note: Councillor Dunn left the meeting at 11.40am during the consideration of this item.)