

Appendix 2: Referral Detail

1. Referral to Scrutiny

1.1 A referral was received on 12 July 2021 in the name of Cllr Matthew Robinson.

1.2 The original referral was directed to Cllr Barry Anderson in his capacity as Chair of the Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board.

1.3 However, it is the Council's nominated 'Scrutiny Officer' – Andy Hodson - that formally determines the Scrutiny Board to which a referral is directed.

1.4 In this case the view of the Scrutiny Officer is that the concerns set out in the referral stem from decisions taken by Council officers about how to progress an infrastructure project. It is the decisions relating to the infrastructure project that have been therefore identified as the substantive issue within the referral and that has resulted in the allocation of the referral to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board.

1.5 The following documents are set out below to provide members with the detail of the referral.

A. Referral Text

B. Additional information provided by Scholes Community Forum in consultation with Parish Councillors and local signatories.

A. Referral Text: Cllr Robinson

Dear Cllr Anderson,

I'm writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

As you may be aware works to construct the East Leeds Orbital Road (ELOR) have reached a stage which has meant officers coming forward to close Leeds Road in Scholes for a minimum of six weeks to allow ELOR to connect into the existing highways network. I believe this closure will have a negative impact on the village of Scholes but also the surrounding communities. Many residents and Parish Councillors have raised concerns about this decision, how it was reached, the information shared and the process that's been undertaken to reach this decision.

The proposed closure will have a damaging impact on the local environment e.g. vehicles making a significant diversion that will negatively impact on the environment, and the well being of the communities it impacts.

I would ask that your scrutiny committee look into this matter urgently under the remit of your board and examine the decision, how it's been reached, it's impact and action that can be taken as soon as possible to avoid further damage. The remit of your board sets states that you'll "focus on the services affecting the lives of citizens living and working in the councils neighbourhoods to monitor progress as a citizen focused City and prioritising environmental sustainability" - that being the case the citizens who've raised concerns with me don't feel that this decision is citizen focused or environmental sustainable, and in fact rides rough shod over their concerns.

I have included Councillors from the neighbouring wards in this email as I believe the proposed closure impacts their wards too and the cumulative implications of this decision must be fully considered.

I look forward to your response and hope the board can take action in this as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Matthew

Cllr Matthew Robinson

Leeds City Councillor for the Harewood Ward

Shadow Resources Lead

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B. Additional information provided by Scholes Community Forum in consultation with Parish Councillors and local signatories.

To Ward Members: Leeds City Council

Harewood Ward; Garforth & Swillington Ward;

Request for Scrutiny Board inquiry into the Chief Highway & Transport and sub ordinates officers decision to full close Leeds Road Scholes for traffic for a SIX Week period, 28 July 2021 to 3 September 2021

Reasons

1. The Highways & Transportation officers exceeded their delegated powers by reasons of not abiding by the condition 11 of the approved Planning Permission. Authority for this can be found in the 2015 supplementary Highways & Transportation Charter between Leeds City Council & Town and Parish Council's
2. The officers applied for a Temporary, Traffic Road Regulation Order as required by Section 14 (2) seeking Full Road Closure of Leeds Road from 7am on the 28 July to 6am on the 3rd of September: Sections 4 and 5 were inaccurately completed.
3. Highway Officers acknowledge that they failed to "Consult" the community in advance of the TRRO application, note section 4 of the above
4. Highway Officers failed to meet the requirements of adopted "Statement of Community Involvement" (an interim SCI is currently enforceable) This is a statutory document required under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act
5. The City Council approved the finance and engaged Mouchel as consultants to conduct a feasibility study for the East Leeds Orbital Road. The report submitted by them underpinned the granting of planning permission for the project. The Chief Highways is on record as stating in his letter dated 5 July **"We acknowledge that more work could have been conducted regarding buildability constraints as the land acquisition process was progressed in earlier stages"**.
 - (a) Was feasibility study flawed and if this is the case was public finance spent justified?
 - (b) Were elected members of the City Plans Panel aware that "more work was required.?"
 - (c) Were officers aware that the "red Line" was a constraint on the working area during land acquisition and this presented problems at the construction stage, if not why not.?
 - (d) Was the Construction Development Management Plan submitted by the Contractor -"Fit For Purpose.?"
6. To meet conditions of the grant of planning permission – Road Safety Audits stages 1 &2 are required. This is vitally important, especially now to ensure diversionary routes and "rat running" do not lead to safety issues in the several communities affected. We are not aware that these have been carried out- Have they.?

Submitted by

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In consultation with Howard Bedford – Chairman of Parish ELOR Working Group
Parish Councillors Paul Remmer & Graham Slater
& on behalf of 400 Objectors