

Mr Arnold Ridout
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Our ref: FOI/ E29406

Ask for: Information Governance

Date: 13.09.2017

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Dear Mr Ridout,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for Information: Information Provided
Please quote our reference: E29406
Subject: Stratford Town Centre Improvements

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We trust that the information provided is satisfactory. You are free to use the information for your personal use only. For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and summary of Freedom of Information requests and responses that may be of help to you in searching for information.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

Request and Response

Following the consultation on "Stratford Town Centre Improvements" which identified "introducing a 20 mph speed limit" as a "key improvement" and in the light of the 92% support from those responding to the consultation:

(a) Was the consultation document "Stratford Town Centre Improvements Consultation Leaflet" approved by Newham Council and if so at what level or by whom;

Yes. Members of the Highways Major Project Board presented material on 21st July 2016 and 22nd September 2016, and again at an update session with Project Board Members and Local Members on the 26th October 2016.

(b) When was the decision taken to exclude a 20mph speed limit from the scheme as presented to the Cabinet in the report on this subject for the meeting of 4 May 2017;

There was no decision to exclude the 20mph, the only decision made in this process is the Cabinet decision to progress the scheme as presented.

(c) Who took the decision to exclude the 20 mph speed limit from the scheme as put to the Cabinet;

There was no decision to exclude the 20mph, the only decision made in this process is the Cabinet decision to progress the scheme as presented.

(d) What were the reasons for the decision to exclude the 20mph speed limit;

There was no decision to exclude the 20mph, the only decision made in this process is the Cabinet decision to progress the scheme as presented.

(e) What were the reasons for not mentioning the omission of 20 mph in the scheme as presented in the Report to the Cabinet.

There was no specific omission in the report presented to Cabinet. A number of different design options were considered during the life of the project, and these were not referred to in the report, in the interest of brevity.

As part of the consideration of design options, the current speed limit of 30mph will remain in place until the scheme is implemented. Although traffic modelling has been undertaken, previous experience has shown that changing traffic systems from one way to two way can lead to differences between modelled flows and actual flows, suggesting a degree of uncertainty in modelled outcomes. Because of this potential uncertainty, it was considered best practice to progress the scheme as presented initially and then to re-evaluate the scheme post implementation to verify network operation performance and consider if a 20mph speed limit could be introduced without an adverse impact on scheme outcomes. This will ensure that local residential side roads are protected from the risk of becoming further congested by rat running traffic as a result of the scheme.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 2000 or email us at information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Complaints, Members Enquiries and Information Governance
Newham Council