



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet Member for City Highways
Date:	1 st February 2018
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Response to petition: “To object to the draft road plans to Grosvenor Place and specifically to Wilton Street”
Wards Affected:	Knightsbridge & Belgravia, St James’s
Key Decision:	No
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications associated with this report
Report of:	Director, City Highways, City Management and Communities

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report was delayed until a site meeting could be held with the Lead Petitioner on 8 January 2017. It considers a petition that requested the following:

“TfL has suggested banning all right turns from Grosvenor Place except into Wilton Street. This will potentially convert Wilton Street from a residential road into a major road throughfare carrying all the traffic from Hyde Park Corner going west to Chelsea and onwards south and west out of London.

We strongly urge TfL to reconsider.

At present, there are three right hand turn options from Grosvenor Place and we propose it will be safer and efficient road-planning to keep that solution in place as it distributes the traffic in a manageable way that’s already proven to work.”

- 1.2 The petition: had 34 signatures; was presented on the City Council's Petitions Webpage; ended on 8 November 2017; and on that same date was presented by Councillor Tony Devenish to Full Council. It is advised that Cllr Devenish's fellow Ward Members for Knightsbridge & Belgravia were similarly advised of the consultation and are known to have submitted their own objections to TfL. Ward Members of the adjacent St James's Ward were also advised of the consultation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for City Highways acknowledges in retrospect:

- That the City Council continues to support the key concerns raised in the petition and that a formal position of Objection was issued to TfL before the then deadline of 1 October 2017;
- That an Officer has regularly liaised with the Petition Lead since October to ensure that he is fully briefed of the City Council's position; and
- That Officers will continue to liaise with fellow Ward Members, other concerned residents, stakeholders and TfL to determine a more suitable scheme that addresses the underlying high casualty related accident history that remains evident on Grosvenor Place.

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 Following full scrutiny of the proposed scheme it was considered that whilst it:

- Would certainly reduce the high levels of casualty related accidents on Grosvenor Place (a Strategic Road) at its Castle Street and Chapel Street access points, it appeared to underestimate the detrimental impact it would have on the residents of Wilton Street in respect to increased traffic and congestion; and
- Its timing for implementation was questionable in respect of the wider, more substantive and unfinished strategic plans for the nearby Victoria Gyratory (that is mainly TLRN). Plans that will greatly impact on future traffic distribution across the wider Victoria area, that includes Grosvenor Place.

4. Background, including Policy Context

- 4.1 On 21 August 2017 Transport for London (TfL) launched a traffic management and road safety scheme consultation for a section of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) on Grosvenor Place between its access point with Wilton Street to the south and Duke of Wellington Place to the north. The scheme's key

objectives are set out in Appendix 2 (the TfL consultation) and in summary were intended:

- To reduce the high number of recorded collisions involving vehicles turning into/ or from Grosvenor Place from the Chester Street access
- The same for the Chapel Street access; and
- To implement a street level Green Man pedestrian crossing across both lanes of Grosvenor Place near to its junction with Duke of Wellington Place/ Hyde Park Corner.

4.2 Before the consultation was launched Officers met TfL to consider the proposed scheme and whilst the proposed Right Turn bans and Green Man crossing were supportable in principle there was uncertainty about the proposal's impact on Chester Street. So it was considered that a public consultation would be the most effective means to determine public support for the scheme, or otherwise.

4.3 In terms of policy context the City Council is bound by the responsibilities of the Traffic Management Act 2004, which requires a Highway Authority to ensure a safe and expeditious highway network for all road users, that includes drivers and frontager residents alike. In this respect the current proposed scheme would ably address both responsibilities save the above uncertainty about Chester Street.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no current financial implications for the City Council to consider.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The City Council's petitions scheme as provided under the constitution sets out explicitly the actions and steps to respond to a petition.

6.2 To this end it is recalled that the Cabinet Member for City Highways had fully evaluated the then TfL proposed scheme last September 2017, was aware of the lead petitioner's views and agreed with Officers on 26 September that a formal Objection to the proposed scheme should be lodged with TfL, and that Ward Members be encouraged to submit the same. Which they did.

7. Outstanding issues

7.1 It is understood that TfL are currently considering the findings of its consultation and it is expected that a review of the scheme design will follow thereafter in 2018/19. At that stage Officers will re-seek the views of: Ward Members; the Cabinet Member for City Highways; the Lead Petitioner and other interested stakeholders before any updated City Council position is formally established.

If you have any queries about this Report please contact:
Hugh Brennan, Transport Programme Manager, Highways and Public Realm,
hbrennan@westminster.gov.uk 020 7641 2936

Background papers

Appendix A – Other implications

Appendix 1 - TfL's proposed scheme consultation, dated 21 August 2017

Appendix 2 - Cover webpage of the petition, dated 8 November 2017.

For completion by the Cabinet Member for City Highways

Declaration of Interest

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME: Councillor Danny Chalkley

State nature of interest if any

.....
(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled

Response to a petition: **'To object to the draft road plans to Grosvenor Place and specifically to Wilton Street'**

Signed

Cabinet Member for City Highways

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:
.....
.....

If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Director of Law , City Treasurer and, if there are staffing implications, the Director of People Services (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.

Appendix A

Other Implications

1. **Resources Implications** – no implication
2. **Business Plan Implications** – no implication
3. **Risk Management Implications** – no implication
4. **Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment including Health and Safety Implications** – no implication
5. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – no implication
6. **Impact on the Environment** – no implication
7. **Equalities Implications** – no implication
8. **Staffing Implications** – no implication
9. **Human Rights Implications** – no implication
10. **Energy Measure Implications** – no implication
11. **Communications Implications** – no implication

Appendix 2:



Petition to: object to the draft road plans to Grosvenor Place and specifically to Wilton Street.

This petition is now closed, as its deadline has passed.

We the undersigned petition Westminster City Council to object to the draft road plans to Grosvenor Place and specifically to Wilton Street. [More details](#)

Submitted by Michael de Kare-Silver – **Deadline to sign up by:** 08 November 2017 – **Signatures:** 34

Current signatories

Michael de Kare-Silver, the petition creator, joined by:

- 33 offline signatures

More details from petition creator

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