

Briefing Note for Forward Plan Select Committee meeting – 3rd March 2010

Petition for Changes to Consultation Process

1. In a briefing note to an earlier Forward Plan Select Committee, officers described the process that would be used to take account of responses to consultation exercises (in relation to consultation exercises on parking and traffic proposals) as follows:

“If, during a subsequent consultation exercise, more than one response is received from a household (or more than one household) the number and nature of these “multi-household” returns will be separately identified in any report to the decision Committee (or officer).

Consultation evidence is weighed against a range of other factors in deciding a course of action on a transportation scheme or initiative. The decision making authority typically has to assess whether the results from consultation indicate a consensus for a particular course of action. Accordingly it will not be necessary to weight a number of responses coming from the same household against single responses from other households. To do so would be to imply that the consultation is a referendum. The decision making authority will simply need to consider the number and nature of multi-household responses alongside the other responses and the various other factors”.

2. This additional note provides clarity on how the responses will be presented in practice.

The current practise is to present the results of consultation in a tabular form identifying how many responses have been received from individual (named) roads and whether the responses were supportive or non-supportive.

In the new arrangements, which facilitate more than one response from an individual household, there will be an additional table which identifies those roads where more than one response was received and whether those responses were supportive or non-supportive. If it is the case that no multi-household responses have been received the report will note that.

The following is an example that may be used in a decision report:

“The following table provides details of multi-household responses”:

Road name	Nos of households with more than one response	Nos of supportive response received from those households	Nos of non-supportive responses from those households
X Avenue	3	6	4
Y Lane	1	1	1

3. The outcome of public consultation is one of a number of factors that have to be considered by the decision maker in relation to parking and traffic schemes.

This form of presentation will enable the decision maker to assess the level of support for a particular scheme across the whole consultation area, the extent to which opinion is divided within households and whether (within those households) the responses have been supportive or otherwise.

This form of presentation will also ensure that opposing views with a household are not “cancelled out” by aggregation.

Contact: Tim Jackson, Head of Transportation
Extension: 5151; e-mail: tim.jackson@brent.gov.uk