



Introduction

The Town Council held a meeting with the Wiltshire Council Cabinet member for Highways, Street Scene & Flooding and the Head of Highway Asset Management & Commissioning on 21st June, and as a result the Town Council has now received a reply to the Mayor's letter of 16th May which requested clarification on a number of traffic related issues. This reply is included with the agenda papers for the Full Council meeting.

Main Points

Wiltshire Council Cabinet members for Highways and for Transport have now stated that they would consider any of the three options in the modelling report for detailed design work. This is despite the outcome of the WS Atkins traffic modelling report which recommended option c as the most viable scheme to meet the town's objectives. The Cabinet members letter requires the town council to demonstrate an 'overall level of support at a local level' for any scheme to be taken forward to the next stage'.

The recent public engagement exercise did not show sufficient support for option c, which was the recommended option from the independent modelling. Only 30% gave a generally supportive score (5, 6 or 7) for option c. 42% of those who commented supported a return to some type of one-way system similar to what operated during the pandemic, whereas 8% commented that they preferred to leave the traffic system as it is.

Wiltshire's letter also demonstrated a new degree of flexibility on how buses might be treated and acknowledged that there might be challenges on the practical implementation of the so called 'bus-gate'. However, First Bus who operate the D1 and D1X, have yet to reply to the scheme proposals.

Since we do not currently have a clear overall endorsement of any one scheme, it is proposed that a final round of consultation be undertaken to arrive at an option which can credibly be presented to Wiltshire Council as having achieved an overall level of local support.

There appear to be four possibilities:



Full Council Meeting – 9 July 2024

Agenda item 7 – Traffic – Briefing

Written by: Ian Brown – Town Clerk

1. Option A
2. Option B
3. Option C
4. Do Nothing

Councillors now need to decide what is the best way of achieving this and to help ease a thorny issue which has blighted the town for many decades.