

Subject: Scrutiny on the impact of speed humps on Londoners lives

Report Number: 5

Date: 11 December 2003

Report to: Transport Committee

Report of: Director of Secretariat

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of this report, which sets out the background for this hearing and question the witnesses accordingly.

2. Background

2.1 On 15th May 2003 the Transport Committee agreed its work programme which included undertaking scrutiny work on the issue of speed humps. The Transport Committee launched its investigation into the impact of speed humps in September and requested written evidence from a wide range of organisations including the Department for Transport, local authorities, emergency services, bus operators, motoring organisations, pedestrian, cycling and road safety groups and members of the public.

2.2 The Committee requested evidence on the following questions:

- Do speed humps affect delivery of emergency services?
- Do speed humps damage residential properties?
- Do speed humps increase air and noise pollution?
- Do speed humps increase congestion in residential areas?
- Do cars try to make up time by speeding between zones?
- Do speed humps damage cars?
- Are there any alternative cost effective measures to speed humps and if so, which measures would you favour?
e.g home zones, safety camera technology, speed limiters.
- What is your experience of the effectiveness of road humps in preventing and reducing the number of fatal injuries and traffic collisions?

3. Issues for the Evidentiary Hearing on 11 December

3.1 As part of its scrutiny on the impact of speed humps on Londoners lives, the Transport Committee has invited representatives from **Transport for London (TfL), London Ambulance Service (LAS), Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and The Slower Speeds Initiative** to give evidence. Written evidence from these organisations, except for TfL, is attached. The evidence from TfL will be circulated to Members and put on the website.

3.2 This evidentiary hearing builds upon the written submissions received and will allow the Committee to discuss the issues involved in more detail. Members may wish to use the opportunity to question representatives from the four organisations on issues relating to:

- Policies and uses of speed humps;
- Effects of speed humps on safety, quality of life, vehicles and the emergency services;
- Consultation with emergency services and the public on speed humps;
- Possible effective alternatives; and,
- Strategic solutions.

4. Further work and publication

4.1 It is expected that a further evidentiary hearing will be held at 10am on 5 February 2003 to take further evidence from local authorities on the issues outlined in paragraph 3.2. Details will be finalised in due course. The Committee may also consider going on a site visit in February to look at speed hump initiatives.

4.2 The Committee will take account of the evidence received from key organisations and then publish its report with recommendations before the end of April 2004.

5. Strategy Implications

5.1 The Mayor's Transport Strategy has three proposals for improving the safety of London's streets and reducing high and inappropriate speeds of vehicles – proposals 4G.7, 4G.8 and 4G.9.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None

7. Legal Implications

7.1 None

Background documents:

There are none.

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