

# Harrogate Congestion Study

Engagement Group meeting one

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# Project history

Long history of scheme development:

- Throughout the early 1990s various alignments for a Harrogate and Knaresborough Relief Road were tested
- The western and northern alignments were adopted as preferred routes, along with the Killinghall Bypass.
- The western alignment was subsequently revoked, but the Northern alignment is still an 'approved' route.
- As a consequence of the 2001 white paper '*A new deal for transport: better for everyone*' the emphasis of transport planning shifted in favour of schemes supporting integrated transport,
- The Local Transport Plan system of strategy and reward was introduced, and the national budget for road building was greatly reduced.
- NYCC therefore prepared a transport strategy for Harrogate and Knaresborough the Harrogate and Knaresborough Integrated Transport Strategy (HAKITS)

## More recent progress

After a period of dormancy, in recognition of significant traffic growth in the area and changes to the availability of funding for major road schemes, in November 2014, the County Area Committee for the Harrogate Borough sought a review of the approved alignment for a relief road and requested:

*“That the Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services be requested to report to the Area Committee at a future date details of the costs and implications for a study into a western and northern relief road for Harrogate and Knaresborough.”*

This review was commenced in 2016.

A stage one report (a data gathering and analysis report) and OAR report were developed by WSP (formerly Mouchel) and the findings reported to the Harrogate Area Committee in December 2017.

# Political input

## **Harrogate Area Committee and BES Executive Members December 2017**

A report setting out the findings of the OAR, and asking for the Area Committee's comments on proposals to undertake public consultation based on the recommendations of the OAR was presented in December 2017.

The Area Committee did not support the recommendation to seek the public's views on the OAR recommendations and resolved to recommend an alternative course of action.

The 15 December 2017 meeting of the Corporate Director of BES and BES Executive Members considered the advice of the Area Committee, and then sought to secure a way forward, offering 3 potential recommendations.

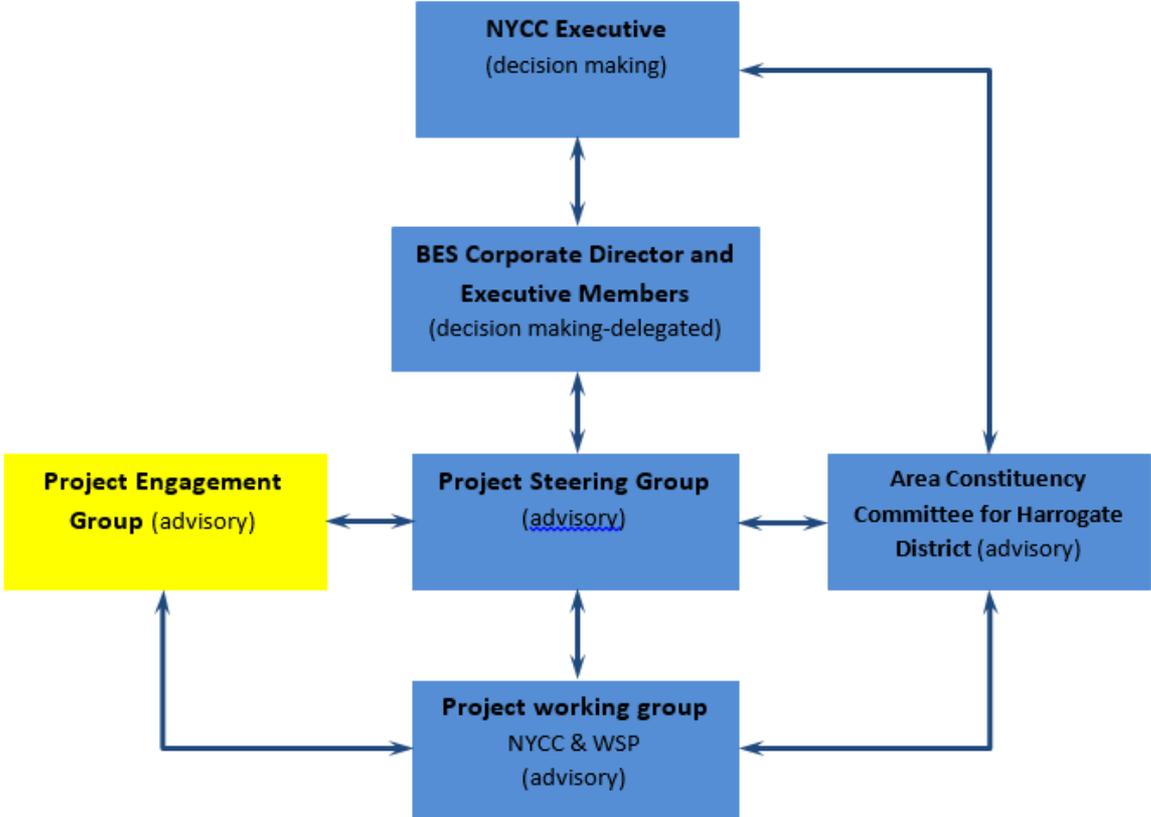
# Political input

The Corporate Director of BES in consultation with the BES Executive Members agreed:

*“To undertake further development work on the sustainable transport elements of both Package B and Package E with a view to a future decision on consultation based on a greater level of assessment of the options.”*

At this meeting it was also agreed to set up this ‘Engagement Group’ to seek the input and guidance on this further work from a range of stakeholder groups.

# Role of the Engagement Group



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## Purpose

- The purpose of the group will be to ‘check and challenge’ the development approach proposed by the Harrogate congestion project group, and to make suggestions and bring commercial and local insight to the process which may have been missed.
- The group will sit alongside the project steering group, which will continue to meet, to guide the direction of the project. As set out above, the project steering group provides an advisory (not decision making) function, and guides the development of the project as it progresses through its various stages.
- Future decisions for the project will continue to be taken in line with the County Council constitution by the Corporate Director of BES in consultation with BES Executive Members and the County Council’s Executive.

# Meetings of the Engagement Group

1. To understand the future phases of work, discuss the approach being taken and comment on any potential gaps or omissions in the work programme. Additionally to seek to further the understanding of the issues the aims the Congestion Study is seeking to address.
2. To understand the findings thus far and challenge as appropriate.
3. To receive and comment on a report on the findings of the Congestion Study and the likely recommendations to Executive Members.

Any questions?