

Our reference: 21282 EIR – 21283 EIR

20 April 2023

Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you for your request of 21 March 2023 in which you asked for the following information:

21282

Can you provide details of the community and stakeholder engagement activities that have been conducted since Tuesday, 19 July 2022 to further refine the Cowley LTNs. Please include but not limited to event planning documents and emails, event advertisements, dates of the events, names of organisations and stakeholders that took part, the type of activity and the outputs and information obtained from these activities.

21283

Can you provide details on what activities were conducted to review all elements of the Cowley LTNs scheme. Please include the dates when these activities occurred, the considerations and the outcomes.

Can you provide details of all the proposals that have been considered, and their current status. And if rejected please provide an explanation.

It is the Council's view that to comply with your request to provide all anonymised documents would absorb enough of its staff's time to engage regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Regulation 12(4)(b) provides that a public authority is excepted from complying with a request for information if that authority considers that it would place a 'substantial and unreasonable burden on [its] resources'.

It is the Council's estimate that to provide you with the information that you have requested would absorb approximately 107 hours of staff time. The Council considers that this represents a substantial burden and an unreasonable diversion of its resources from the provision of essential public services.

The Council has estimated the time that it would take to deal with your request accordingly:

- 1. At least 12 staff and councillors searching and sifting inboxes for emails and documents, and redacting any personally identifiable information that may be included before sharing: records @ 10 minutes per email/document based on average of 50 documents/emails per person = 100 hours**
- 2. Checking output by a separate colleague records = 2.5 hours**
- 3. Writing response – 3 hours**

4. Internal governance/ approval of response – 1.5 hour

TOTAL TIME = 107 hours

As you can see, to comply with your request would impose a substantial burden on the Council's resources. In reaching its decision, the Council also considered whether disclosure would be in the public interest.

Arguments in favour of disclosure:

- 1. Disclosure could further the understanding of, and participation in, public debate; and**
- 2. Releasing this information may promote transparency and increase public awareness.**

Arguments against disclosure:

- 1. Committing a considerable amount of the Council's resources to answering this request would detract from the services that it provides in other areas,**
- 2. That there is a need to ensure that public funds are applied effectively, and**
- 3. The importance of the matter at hand does not constitute an overriding or exceptional reason for disclosure.**

On this occasion, the Council finds that the public interest in refusing your request outweighs the public interest in complying with it.

Advice and Assistance

In accordance with the Council's duty to now advise and assist you, might I suggest that you consider amending your request to narrow its scope.

For instance, you may wish to reduce the number of requested data to less than 2,000 entries and be more precise in specifying, which free text entries you are interested in receiving.

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request, you can ask for an internal review as follows:

- Contact the Freedom of Information team in Customers and Organisational Development: foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk**
- Write to the Freedom of Information team at the FREEPOST address:**

**Freedom of Information Team
Oxfordshire County Council
FREEPOST RTLL-ECKS-GLUA
Oxford OX1 1YA**

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,

Wilmslow,

Cheshire,

SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Please let me know if you have further enquiries. I would be grateful if you could use the reference number given at the top of this email.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Springett

Project Manager

Infrastructure Delivery

Oxfordshire County Council

Email: clare.springett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk