Election Briefing 2

February 2026

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No green light for LTNs from official review

The last Conservative Government published its review of LTNs on 17th March 2024. The current Government has yet to respond. Supporters of LTNs argued it backed their stance. Below we reprint its conclusions which show that, far from backing LTNs, it asked searching questions of them.

The main findings of the review

The review found a very mixed picture

• **Motor vehicle travel.** *The available evidence indicates that LTNs are effective in reducing traffic volumes within internal roads. However, results for boundary roads are mixed, with some seeing increases in traffic volumes.*

• **Economy.** *To date, there is not rigorously researched and published evidence to understand the economic impacts associated with LTN schemes.*

• **Access.** *The literature showed mixed impacts for disabled people. Whilst some report a variety of positive impacts, many have struggled to access benefits of LTNs and adjust to the changes.*

• **Environment.** *LTNs have succeeded in improving air quality on internal roads but this benefit has not always been shared with boundary locations which show a mix of minimal reductions, no reductions and some increases in emissions of air pollutants.*

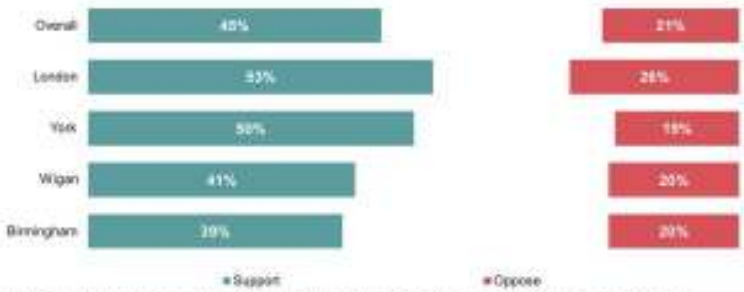
• **Active travel.** *Evidence from UK LTNs indicates that schemes' impact has been mixed with some positive evidence of increases in the time spent travelling actively - walking and cycling - and others showing little to no change.*

• **Quality of life.** *Directly, there is evidence that there has been less street crime and improved road safety within LTNs, but ongoing research is needed to draw more conclusive findings.*

The review found majority support for the 4 LTNs studied but when SEJ contacted Ipsos Mori, who carried out the work, they told us they had just asked those within the LTNs:

"The survey of residents was confined to sampling residential postcodes within the boundaries of the x4 selected LTNs (not outside). We did not sample outside of the LTN area e.g. boundary streets."

Figure 4.2: Support for local LTN scheme



Q10: To what extent do you support or oppose the existing Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme in your local area?
Base: All answering (1,835); Birmingham (316); London (388); Wigan (459); York (672);
Fieldwork dates: OctoberDecember 2023

The review in full:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f400adfa18510011011787/low-traffic-neighbourhoods-research-report.pdf