

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 th JUNE 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	EAST AREA TRANSPORT STUDY UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	REDLANDS, KATESGROVE, PARK & ABBEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Sub-Committee on progress with the East Area Transport Study.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes this report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with Reading Borough Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP) and existing traffic management policies and standards.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council, as the Local Highway Authority, is responsible for the provision, improvement and maintenance of transport infrastructure within the Borough. It is also responsible for the management of the highway network, which extends to include road safety and asset management. This requires that the Council be minded of the impacts that the highway and its use has on local communities.
- 4.2 In support of this work the Council has developed a number of area transport studies. These have previously seen the installation of a variety of measures, from dropped kerbs through to larger-scale highway works.

- 4.3 The University & Hospital Area Transport Study was established in 2011 and the Eastern Area Access Study was established in 2012. Progress for both studies is overseen by a Joint Steering Group which is chaired by the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport; and comprises membership of Abbey, Redlands, Katesgrove and Park Ward Councillors, and representatives from the University of Reading and Royal Berkshire Hospital.

5. PROGRESS

- 5.1 Works commenced on the highway improvement scheme along London Road and Cemetery Junction on Monday 10th March 2014 and are progressing well. The footways have been widened and resurfaced along London Road between Sackville Street and Crown Street and the traffic signal improvements at the London Street/London Road and Crown Street/Southampton Street junctions are underway. New raised junction tables have been introduced at the London Road/East Street and London Road/Watlington Street junctions. Works at Cemetery Junction have also commenced with the changes to the pedestrian crossings and footway layouts across the junction well underway.
- 5.2 The works will continue to be divided into several different phases throughout the contract to reduce impact on the overall road network. Any works requiring lane closures will continue to only take place during the off peak hours and resurfacing of the road at Cemetery Junction will take place overnight during the summer.
- 5.3 In addition, the implementation of advisory cycle lanes on Southampton Street and Silver Street will be progressed in the Summer. The cycle lanes will be achieved by utilising existing hatched areas on the highway and therefore highway capacity will not be affected.
- 5.4 Officers have identified a preferred option in relation to discussions with the University to install a pedestrian refuge island on Pepper Lane to aid pedestrian access to both the University and Leighton Park School.
- 5.5 The proposed eastern area 20mph speed limit is currently being advertised and any objections will be reported to this meeting within a separate report.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 6.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.
- 6.2 To develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley.
- 6.3 To support the Green Travel Plan policies of the University of Reading and the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Statutory consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 7.2 Study-wide consultations have been undertaken with residents in November 2011 and May 2012 as part of the University & Hospital Area Transport Study. A public exhibition of the proposed pedestrian and cycle schemes was held in January 2013.
- 7.3 Ongoing engagement with representatives from the University and Hospital is undertaken through the study Working Group and Steering Group meetings.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The study is funded by existing Transport budgets, including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 University & Hospital Area / Eastern Area Access Study TMAP reports - June 2011, September 2011, June 2012, September 2012, November 2012, March 2013 and June 2013.
- 10.2 East Area Transport Study TMSR Reports - September 2013, November 2013, January 2014 and March 2014.