

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JANUARY 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	15
TITLE:	HIGHMOOR ROAD / ALBERT ROAD - PETITION FOR A SAFER CROSSROADS - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	THAMES
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on the resultant review of the road safety improvement options to reduce accidents and the concern of accidents at the crossroads of Highmoor Road/Albert Road following the response to statutory consultation.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 lists a revision of the options with the responses to the statutory consultation taken into account. The original concept of closing one side of the junction was clearly not popular.
- 1.3 Based on the review of the options and taking into account the responses to the original proposal it is recommendation is to change the priorities at the junction introducing STOP, as appropriate, on both Albert Road approaches to the junction. Whilst this does not meet the request of the original petition it is a direct response to the injury accidents that have occurred.
- 1.4 The review of this junction forms part of the annual road safety programme.

## **2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the review of the options (Appendix 1) to improve safety at the junction of Highmoor Road with Albert Road.**
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee approve the officer recommendation to change priorities at the junction.**

## **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Under the 1988 Road Traffic Act the highway authority has a duty to take steps to both reduce and prevent collisions on the road network. In addition under the Traffic Management Act 2004 the authority has a duty to maintain and manage the road network and secure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic. Traffic is defined as encompassing all road users including pedestrians.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 reviews the road safety options for the junction of Highmoor Road with Albert Road. This further review of the options takes into account the responses to the statutory consultation to close one side of the junction.
- 4.2 The review of the options concludes that changing priorities at the junction of Highmoor Road with Albert Road should improve road safety by reducing injury accidents. There will be a need to review the current coloured road surfacing and include a contrasting coloured surface on Albert Road. The STOP markings will need to be removed from Highmoor Road and this will damage the current red surfacing. The red surfacing shall remain so it will need to be refreshed as a part of the works. Albert Road approaches to the junction shall be applied with a buff surfacing as a lighter colour that will serve to highlight the junction. The change to priorities, whilst not requiring any further statutory process, currently needs central government approval. However, this approval is being relaxed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions review expected to be endorsed by parliament within the next few months.
- 4.3 Whilst there are additional risks associated with changing well established priorities at this junction freshly applied surface colour and road markings will alert drivers to the change. Once the priorities have been changed there will be a continued period of review.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

6.1 Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. The list of options has been shared with the lead petitioner and ward members for wider circulation within the community.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Proposals for movement restrictions are advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 It is expected that the initial change of priority and surface colour will cost £25K. The annual road safety programme is funded through existing Transport Capital Budgets.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 TM Sub Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 petition submission. TM Sub Committee 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Annual Road Safety Review. TM Sub Committee 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014. TM Sub Committee 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014.