

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	17 th JUNE 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	14
TITLE:	WEST AREA TRANSPORT STUDY		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	SOUTHCOTE & MINSTER
LEAD OFFICER:	CHRIS MADDOCKS	TEL:	0118 937 4950
JOB TITLE:	TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER	E-MAIL:	chris.maddocks@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the rationale for the establishment of the West Reading Transport Study. The purpose of the study will be to identify, define and prioritise transport and related issues and opportunities in the Southcote area of Reading.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and to approve the establishment of the West Reading Transport Study.

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 covered areas of Reading including North Reading, the A327 corridor, East Reading (including the University & Hospital area) and the Oxford Road Corridor. These studies have instigated the installation of a variety of measures, from dropped kerbs through to larger-scale highway works.

5. THE PROPOSAL

5.1 It is proposed to establish the West Reading Transport Study to identify, define and prioritise transport and related issues and opportunities in the Southcote area of Reading. The overriding objective of the study will be to take a balanced approach to enhancing the local area and connecting links through measures that improve accessibility, road safety for all users, better manage traffic and parking, and encourage use of public transport, cycling and walking.

5.2 The study will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the expansion of Southcote Primary School, the opening of the Wren Secondary Free School at the former Elvian School site on Southcote Lane, and the proposed residential development at Coley Park at the former DEFRA site on Coley Avenue.

5.3 It is envisaged that proposals will be developed as part of the study to improve pedestrian facilities and parking arrangements in line with the forthcoming land-use developments in the study area.

5.4 It is proposed that the West Reading Transport Study Steering Group will be established to direct progress of the study. Membership of the Steering Group will include the Local Councillors for Southcote and Minster Wards, and will be chaired by the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Transport and Planning.

5.5 The draft Terms of Reference for the West Reading Transport Study Steering Group, including a map of the proposed study area, are provided at Appendix A below.

5.6 The Sub-Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and to approve the establishment of the West Reading Transport Study.

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.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Statutory consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None arising from this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The study will be funded by existing Transport budgets and S106/CIL contributions where appropriate.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 N/A

APPENDIX A

West Reading Transport Study Steering Group

Terms of Reference - Draft for Discussion

Study Aim

To take a balanced approach to enhancing the local area and connecting links through measures that improve accessibility, road safety for all users, better manage traffic and parking, and encourage use of public transport, cycling and walking.

Purpose of the Steering Group

To direct the progress of the West Reading Transport Study in order to identify, define and prioritise transport and related issues and opportunities in the Study Area (map provided below).

Membership

- Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport
- Southcote Ward Members
- Minster Ward Members
- Council Transport Officers
- Other stakeholders (as appropriate)

Reporting Structure

- Officers to report findings of internal work to Steering Group.
- Steering Group to adhere to the Information Protocol (provided below) and agree any information to be presented to the public.

Frequency of Meetings

The West Reading Transport Study Steering Group to meet according to the timescale agreed at meetings of the Steering Group, in order to discuss and make key decisions to progress the study.

Areas of Responsibility

To consider transport related issues and opportunities within the defined Study Area, prioritise potential measures for funding and implementation and to update the Council, public and other relevant parties on these priorities and decisions.

In particular, to focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the expansion of Southcote Primary School, the opening of the WREN Secondary Free School and the proposed residential development at Coley Park; and to progress plans to improve pedestrian facilities and parking arrangements in the area (subject to the availability of funding).

To agree consultation methods and materials in order to gain the most appropriate feedback on transport issues and opportunities from local residents, businesses and other organisations representing the area.

To have specific regard to the policies and objectives contained within the Local Transport Plan 3 and the opportunities identified in the Area-Wide and South Western Local Action Plans.

To support any research, modelling or other work deemed necessary and appropriate to investigate the transport issues and opportunities in the area, and to coordinate with other authorities and organisations as necessary.

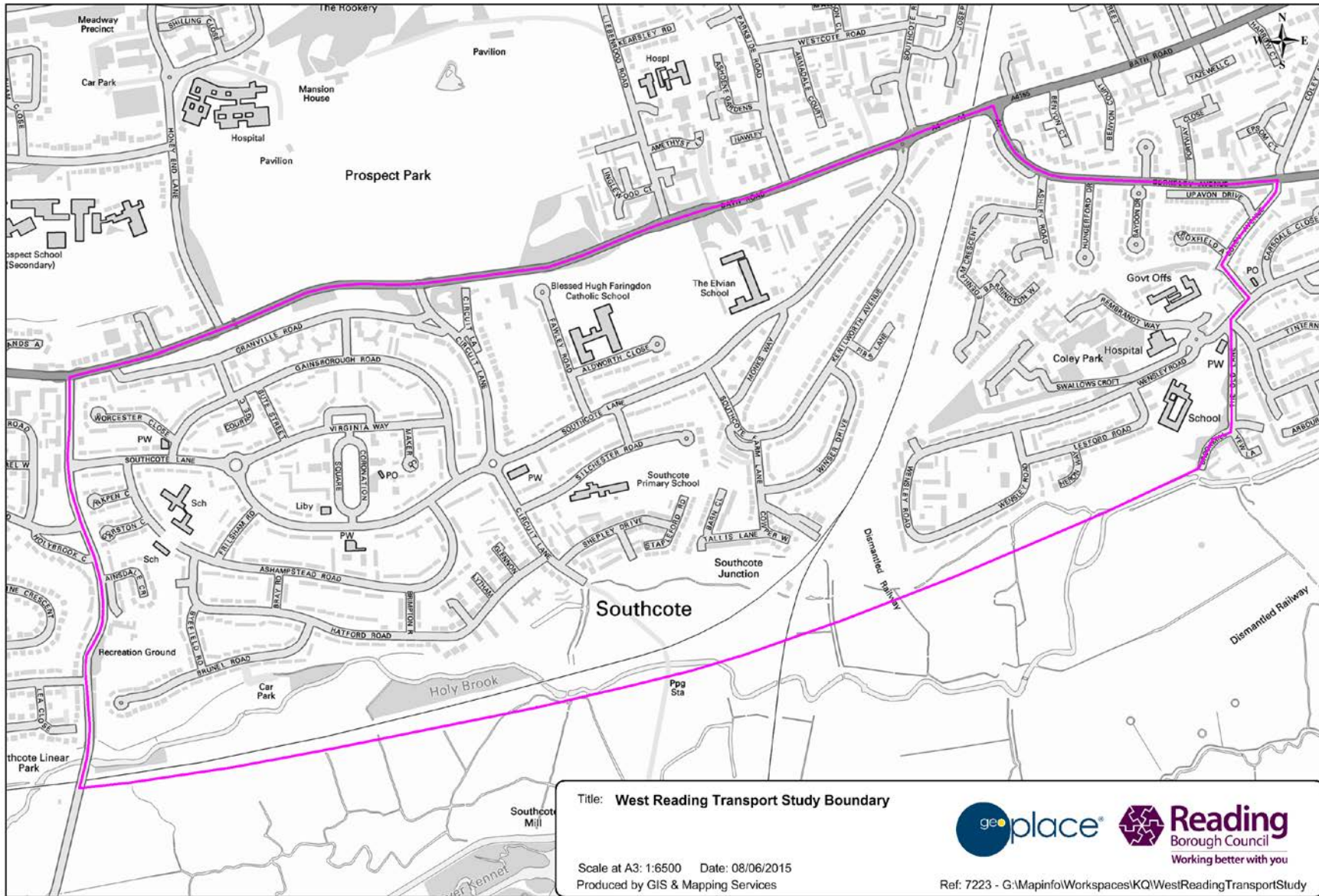
To have due regard to low cost alternatives, value for money and the 'whole life cost' of any proposed schemes, including longer term maintenance implications to be as practical and cost effective as possible.

To note the limited availability of current funding sources and the aim to implement any approved schemes using S106/CIL funding as it becomes available.

To promote understanding of strategic proposals and cross-sector strategies, and ensure integration of any proposals identified through this study with wider Council strategies such as those for School Travel, the Cycling Strategy, Local Development Framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Reading Borough Council
June 2015

Proposed Study Area



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Information Protocol

Due to the need for Ward Member involvement no matter the political make-up of the Wards involved, the Study should be regarded as being a 'Cross Party' strategy and as such, must not be undermined by the premature dissemination or publication of details.

The following Information Protocol seeks to achieve this aim, and all members of the Study Steering Group are encouraged to abide by it.

1. All discussions at the Steering Group meetings are confidential.
2. No member of the Steering Group will publish details of confidential discussions unless agreed by the Steering Group in advance.
3. Minutes of meetings of the Steering Group will remain confidential.
4. Any documents, plans or other materials circulated through the Steering Group will remain confidential unless publicly available through other means (e.g. Committee report) or unless agreed by the Steering Group in advance.
5. If a member of the Steering Group intends to refer to the West Reading Transport Study in any public forum, publication, article, newsletter or website, its content will be checked with the latest minutes of the Steering Group for accuracy.