

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JUNE 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	17
TITLE:	REQUESTS FOR NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes a method in which to inform the Sub-Committee of requests for new traffic management measures that have been raised by members of the public, other organisations/representatives and Members of the Borough Council. These will be measures that have either been previously reported, or those that would not typically be addressed in other programmes, which are currently considered unfunded.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the proposed method for reporting requests for new traffic management measures, as per Items 4.4 - 4.9, is agreed and becomes a regular agenda item for the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Any proposals would need to be considered in line with the Borough Council's Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Council receives many requests for new traffic management measures across the borough and has a number of programmes in which they may be addressed. Such programmes include the Waiting Restriction Review, Resident Permit Parking and Road Safety Review. However, with continued central government transport funding cuts monies for addressing general traffic management issues is harder to come by.
- 4.2 In the past officers held a 'Traffic Management Issues List' that was regularly updated as new issues came through the associated traffic committee. In some respects this proposal re-introduces the traffic management issues list but with a scoring mechanism to help inform the decision to either take schemes forward or drop the issue.
- 4.3 This proposal does not affect major strategic transport and cycling schemes that are funded as a part of any major scheme project award from central Government and/or the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 4.4 This proposal is to introduce a mechanism to report and address requests for new traffic management measures that would not naturally sit within existing programmes. This report of requests will include, among others, schemes that have already been formally reported to the Sub-committee, but have no allocated funding to date. Examples of this include; the proposed new zebra crossing on Gosbrook Road, a parking bay within Eastern Avenue and compass point (road) signing around the IDR. All of these schemes have been promoted through Traffic Management Sub-committee (or prior equivalent committee/panel) previously but remain unfunded.
- 4.5 Examples of traffic management issues are likely to include requests for - but not limited to - pedestrian crossing facilities, traffic/speed calming and minor junction improvement works, one-way streets/plugs and dealing with rat running. The list is expected to contain measures requested by members of the public, Councillors (and any other local representatives) and any other measure that officers consider would be of local benefit (in resolving a particular problem), but for which there is no identifiable funding.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the list is divided into Council Wards and that officers develop a scoring system that will be applied to each request. Scoring will ensure best value by capturing all aspects of any issue showing the likely cost and the benefits. It is also expected that officers will also provide a professional 'view' against each request once scored.

4.7 It is proposed that officers will provide commentary to all requests and recommend to the Sub-Committee the following:

4.7.1 Recommend Works - These items will remain on the list and can be allocated a priority for further investigation, subject to technical feasibility and funding availability. Recommended works will be developed in to schemes and reported back to the Sub-committee with costings to then be prioritised as funding is identified.

4.7.2 Forward to [Scheme/Programme] - These items will be noted, for information, in a separate section of the list. They will, however, be moved for consideration as part of a different scheme or programme, such as an Area Study.

4.7.3 Remove - To remove an item from the list.

4.8 As the programme develops, it is intended that officers provide details about funding that may be available generally, or for specific measures, through local contributions such as CIL or Section 106. If specific items become funded through these contributions, the Sub-Committee will be informed and the scheme can be delivered.

4.9 The next stage, should the Sub-committee support this proposal, will be to develop the scoring system and report back with the list of current issues held by officers.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 None arising from this report.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Requests received from members of the public, or their representatives, can be added to the list of issues.

6.2 Requests that are progressed into active schemes may require statutory consultation or public notification.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from this report.

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.

8.2 An Equality Impact scoping exercise may be conducted for any request that is agreed by the Sub-Committee for progression as an active scheme.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

9.2 Funding will need to be identified prior to the progression and development of requests/schemes on the list of issues.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.