

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JANUARY 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	OXFORD ROAD WAITING RESTRICTION CHANGES (READING WEST STATION UPGRADE)		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	Abbey, Battle,
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for Officers to undertake statutory consultation for recommended alterations to waiting restrictions on the Oxford Road at Reading West Station. This is in order to facilitate the building of a new station building as part of the station upgrade scheme, for which a separate planning application has been submitted.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 - Reading West Station Upgrade highway amendments drawing no. 45835/5504/SK012 C.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, for the proposals contained within in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.

- 2.4 That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.5 That the Head of Transport, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor, be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals.
- 2.6 That no public inquiry be held into the proposal.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A Masterplan for significant enhancements to the station and wider interchange has been prepared by the Council, in partnership with GWR and Network Rail. The upgrade works were granted scheme and spend approval, subject to GWR securing planning consent for the station enhancement works, at the Council's Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee in November 2020.
- 4.2 Detailed designs for the station, interchange and highway enhancements have been prepared in partnership with GWR. Pre-application discussions with the Council's Planning department were undertaken and the planning application for the scheme was submitted in October. The scheme proposals include a new station building on the Oxford Road with associated highway alterations and interchange improvements, increased cycle parking, improvements within the station itself such as enhanced lighting, and a new ticket gate-line at the Tilehurst Road station entrance.
- 4.3 As part of the highway alterations needed to accommodate the station building on the southern pavement on the Oxford Road it is necessary to relocate the bus shelter and stop on the south side and adjacent to the entrance to Reading West station. This stop needs to move approximately 3m to the west to enable buses to pull in to the stop whilst allowing regular traffic to continue to pass. This will result in the removal of one of the four short term parking bays as outlined in Appendix 1 - Reading West Station Upgrade highway amendments drawing no. 45835/5504/SK012 C.
- 4.4 Subject to planning consent, construction of the initial phases of the scheme is due to commence on-site in spring 2021.
- 4.5 This report seeks approval by the Sub-Committee to conduct statutory consultation on the recommended schemes, taking into consideration any Ward Councillor comments that have been received.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's priorities, as set out below:

- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
- Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

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.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The creation of - and changes to existing - Traffic Regulation Orders will require advertisement and consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

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 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant as the proposals are not deemed to be discriminatory to persons with protected characteristics. A statutory consultation will be conducted, providing an opportunity for objections/support/concerns to be considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement the proposals.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Funding of £3.1m has been secured from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and £200,000 Section 106 developer contributions for the current phases of works which will deliver enhanced passenger facilities and security improvements in line with the overall Masterplan vision for the station.

9.2 Funding for the advertisement requirement of the statutory consultation and subsequent implementation of agreed changes will come from the overall scheme spend.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Details, including the Full business Case and Planning Application can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website:

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/council/policies-finance-and-legal-information/transport-schemes-and-projects/reading-west-station/>