

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	4 MARCH 2020		
TITLE:	BERKELEY AVENUE - ZEBRA CROSSING		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORT	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a concept design for a formal (zebra) crossing on Berkeley Avenue following the removal of traffic islands as a part of the NCN 422 cycle network.
- 1.2 This report recommends that members of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee agree to Officers progressing with the necessary statutory process to enable delivery of a zebra crossing as proposed.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 the concept scheme design.

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 the statutory advertisement process for a zebra crossing on Berkeley Avenue.
- 2.3 That subject to no objections being received, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal any resultant Traffic Order.
- 2.4 That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisements be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

2.5 That the Head of Transport (or appropriate Officer), in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor, be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals.

2.6 That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The proposals align with the principles of the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP), Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

4.1 As part of the NCN 422 cycle route within Berkeley Avenue traffic islands were removed to facilitate the mandatory cycle lane.

4.2 Unbeknown at the time a set of traffic islands close to Ashley Road provided a valued pedestrian crossing point across Berkeley Avenue. Despite the islands being for the purpose of traffic separation and not being equipped with dropped kerbs a pedestrian desire line had become well established. Following the removal of the traffic island the council received a petition for the crossing point to be restored.

4.3 After investigation it has become clear that pedestrian islands can only be reintroduced with the removal of the cycle lane. Consequently, a formal zebra crossing is proposed to reintroduce the crossing point and retain the mandatory cycle lane. This approach establishes the Council's commitment in providing quality pedestrian and cycling facilities and to improve mobility for all.

4.4 This report seeks to obtain the necessary approvals from the Sub-Committee, to enable officers to progress with the necessary process to enable the installation of a formal pedestrian crossing. Sub-Committee members are asked to note that this report does not guarantee the implementation of a zebra crossing at this stage. Should any significant alteration be necessary, or objections to the consultation received, officers will offer an alternative scheme to reintroduce islands and remove the cycle lane for a short distance. This alternative facility will not require any formal statutory process.

4.5 Appendix 1 provides a concept drawing for the zebra crossing

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and 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 conducted in accordance with appropriate legislation. Notices of an intended zebra crossing intention will be published in the printed press and copies will be placed on site. The Police are the statutory consultee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Notice will be given for the implementation of a zebra crossing under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, in consultation with the Police.

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 The Council does not consider that the proposals will be discriminatory to any groups with protected characteristics. Statutory consultations provide opportunities for objections/support/concerns to be raised and considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement a scheme.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This scheme will be funded from transport budgets as allocated by central government as part of the integrated transport block (grant) funding.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Petition report to Traffic Management Sub-committee
- 10.2 NCN 422 progress reports as part of the capital projects update reports to Traffic Management Sub-committee.