

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 NOVEMBER 2022	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	REQUESTS FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES		
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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report informs the Sub-Committee of requests for traffic management measures that have been raised by members of the public, other organisations/representatives and elected Members of the Borough Council. These are measures that have either been previously reported, or those that would not typically be addressed in other programmes, where funding is yet to be identified.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the Officer recommended action for each item in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Appendix 3 is for information only - this is the principal list of requests. Appendix 4 provides the results of a Councillor survey, supporting an amendment request in Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - Provides the list of requests that are new to this update report with initial Officer comments and recommendations.
- Appendix 2 - Provides the list of requests that have been previously-reported, where significant amendments are proposed, with Officer comments and recommendations.
- Appendix 3 - For information. Provides the principal list of requests, as updated following the previous report to the Sub-Committee in March 2022. It also contains the prioritised list of cycling and walking measures from the LCWIP.
- Appendix 4 - The results of a survey carried out by Ward Councillors in the Amersham Road area, supporting the amendment request in Appendix 2.

## **2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the content of this report.**
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee considers the officer recommendation for each request in Appendix 1 and takes a decision on whether to remove or retain these entries on the primary list of requests (Appendix 3).**
- 2.3 That the Sub-Committee considers the officer recommendation for amendments to each request in Appendix 2 and takes a decision on whether to remove or retain these amended entries on the primary list of requests (Appendix 3).**
- 2.4 That the Sub-Committee may wish to consider whether any previously reported items in Appendix 3 can be agreed for removal.**

## **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Requests for new measures would need to be considered alongside the Borough Council's Traffic Management Policies and Standards and Strategic Aims, the Local Transport Plan (LTP), and Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Many of the proposals will complement the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy by removing barriers to the greater use of sustainable, healthy transport options.**

## **4. THE PROPOSAL**

### Current Position

- 4.1 The Council receives many requests for new traffic management measures across the borough and has several programmes in which they may be addressed. Such programmes include the Waiting Restriction Review, Resident Permit Parking and Road Safety. However, monies for addressing desirable general traffic management measures is harder to secure.**
- 4.2 This report does not necessarily 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. It does, however, include requests that are received by several Council departments and includes requests made by the Cycle Forum.**
- 4.3 Appendix 3 provides the primary list of requested schemes and requests for measures, which is currently held by Officers.**

It is likely that the primary sources of funding for these schemes will be local CIL contributions and other third-party contributions. If funding has been allocated to a scheme, the entry will be removed from this list and added to Appendix 2, seeking agreement for its removal from this report. Appendix 3 is one of several Council documents that may be used for seeking contributions for specific schemes (for example, during the planning process for a new development).

- 4.4 All appendix documents contain some categorised commentary around each scheme/request, providing some contextual background information such as high-level feasibility and casualty data and, in some cases, indicative costs.

Until a scheme is fully investigated, designed and quotes have been received from appropriate contractors, it is not possible to provide detailed cost estimates, but those contained in the report reflect officer experience and a desktop review, unless otherwise stated.

There can be many legislative and physical aspects that can influence the feasibility of a scheme and the resources required to investigate requests and develop designs will incur costs. For this reason, it is not intended that any request is investigated further until funding has been identified and the Sub-Committee is asked to note that no item on this list is guaranteed as being deliverable.

### Options Proposed

- 4.5 Appendix 1 provides the list of requests that are new to this update report.

Members are asked to consider the recommended action for each scheme and agree the outcome as follows:

- Retain - These items will be added to the principal list (Appendix 3), awaiting funding for further investigation and development.
- Remove - These items will be removed from the list and will not be retained for further investigation and development. The reason for this recommendation will be given.

- 4.6 Appendix 2 provides a list of requests that have formerly been part of the principal list (Appendix 3), but where Officers are making an amended recommendation. The recommendation and reason will be given.

This Appendix will also be used where a scheme has received funding for development, where a recommendation will be made for the scheme's removal from future update reports - scheme development will be reported separately.

- 4.7 Appendix 4 provides the result of a survey in the Amersham Road area that was undertaken by ward Councillors and relates to the requested amendment in Appendix 2. This recommended amendment separates this area from the previously-reported 'Lower Caversham' 20mph scheme request. The survey suggests that there is a high level of support in the Amersham Road area for a 20mph scheme.

The existing request for a 20mph scheme in Lower Caversham covers a very large area and was first reported in 2016. No funding has yet been identified for this scheme, for which the cost delivery would be very high. It seems pragmatic, therefore, to consider smaller-scale options within that may attract funding, or potentially be deliverable at a lower cost relative to other sections of the wider area.

Officers recommend that Amersham Road be reported separately to the Lower Caversham scheme. Amersham Road already has a level of traffic calming features in place, so would be part-way toward being a compliant 20mph subject to the regulatory Traffic Regulation Order, signs and some additional traffic calming features being installed. It could be delivered at a significantly lower cost relative to a similar area that did not already contain such features.

### Other Options Considered

4.8 None at this time.

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

5.1 The recommendations of this report support the recording of a range of requests for new traffic management measures and do not directly deliver changes. Many of the requests will contribute to the Strategic Aims of the Council and, once funding becomes available, they can be developed and separately reported in greater detail.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

6.2 The recommendation of this report doesn't introduce any physical changes at this time. As a result, an Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted, which shows a net 'NIL' impact as a result of the Sub-Committee agreeing to the recommendation of this report.

Further assessments will be conducted when funding for scheme development and delivery is identified.

## **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

7.1 This report records requests for traffic management measures that have been received through engagement between the Council and the community.

7.2 When funding becomes available for the delivery of schemes on this report, officers will engage with ward Councillors, who will also have an active role in community engagement.

7.3 Development of many of these requests will require statutory consultation and/or public notification. Statutory consultation will be conducted in accordance with appropriate legislation. Notices will be advertised in the local printed newspaper and will be erected on lamp columns within the affected area.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, 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 at this time as the report does not recommend any physical change. Assessment will be considered once funding for development and delivery of this scheme is identified.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Requests for Traffic Management Measures (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, March 2022).