

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed: Jacksons Corner - Proposals for Statutory consultation (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, June 2023)

Directorate: DEGNS

Service: Highways & Traffic Services

Name: James Penman

Job Title: Network Services Manager

Date of assessment: 31 May 2023

Version History

Version	Reason	Author	Date	Approved By
1	Original	JP	31/05/23	SS

Scope your proposal

- **What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?**

As per the accompanying report to June 2023 Traffic Management Sub-Committee, there is a recommendation to enable officers to undertake statutory consultation on proposed alterations relating to Jacksons Corner (1-9 Kings Road).

The proposed alterations include the provision of new loading bays, footway widening, improved bus stop facilities (including an additional stop). The changes will necessitate a reversal of the one-way traffic direction on Abbey Square and relocation of existing disabled and motorcycle bays on Abbey Square and Kings Road.

- **Who will benefit from this proposal and how?**

The loading bays will be available to use for permitted vehicles serving any premises in the area, providing a beneficial facility to local businesses on this Red Route.

The widened footway will benefit accessibility for all users.

The improved bus stop provision will benefit public transport users.

- **What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?**

Improved loading bay provision on this Red Route, improved footway accessibility (and a resultant reduction in risks) and improved access to public transport services.

- **Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?**

With the 'competition' for limited Town Centre kerbside space, it is challenging to accommodate all stakeholders needs and there is inevitably a compromise. It is expected that local businesses would welcome the additional loading facilities, particularly as Kings Road is a Red Route.

Bus passengers and those using the northern footway on Kings Road would inevitably welcome the additional space that the footway widening and additional bus stop provision will provide.

Assess whether an EqlA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; advancing equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

- Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some groups may be affected differently than others (due to race, disability, sex, gender, sexuality, age, religious belief or due to belonging to the Armed Forces community)? Make reference to the known demographic profile of the service user group, your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.

Yes

- Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Make reference to your complaints, consultation, feedback, media reports locally/nationally.

No (none known)

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above, you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If **No** you **MUST** complete this statement.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because:

N/A

Handwritten signature of James Penman in black ink.

Completing officer: James Penman

Handwritten signature of Sam Shean in blue ink.

Lead Officer: Sam Shean

Assess the Impact of the Proposal

Your assessment must include:

- **Consultation**
- **Collection and Assessment of Data**
- **Judgement about whether the impact is negative or positive**

Think about who does and doesn't use the service? Is the take up representative of the community? What do different minority groups think? (You might think your policy, project or service is accessible and addressing the needs of these groups, but asking them might give you a totally different view). Does it really meet their varied needs? Are some groups less likely to get a good service?

How do your proposals relate to other services - will your proposals have knock on effects on other services elsewhere? Are there proposals being made for other services that relate to yours and could lead to a cumulative impact?

Example: A local authority takes separate decisions to limit the eligibility criteria for community care services; increase charges for respite services; scale back its accessible housing programme; and cut concessionary travel.

Each separate decision may have a significant effect on the lives of disabled residents, and the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable.

This combined impact would not be apparent if decisions are considered in isolation.

Consultation

How have you consulted with or do you plan to consult with relevant groups and experts. If you haven't already completed a Consultation form do it now. The checklist helps you make sure you follow good consultation practice.

[Consultation manager form - Reading Borough Council Dash](#)

Relevant groups/experts	How were/will the views of these groups be obtained	Date when contacted

<p>Reading Borough Council Access and Disabilities Working Group</p>	<p>Details of the open statutory consultation will be forwarded to the supporting officer, Chair and Vice-Chair for this group. All feedback to the statutory consultation will be reported and considered as part of the implementation (or otherwise) decision.</p>	<p>To be confirmed - at the time of writing, officers are seeking approval to undertake statutory consultation.</p>
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Collect and Assess your Data

Using information from Census, residents survey data, service monitoring data, satisfaction or complaints, feedback, consultation, research, your knowledge and the knowledge of people in your team, staff groups etc. describe how the proposal could impact on each group. Include both positive and negative impacts.

- Describe how this proposal could impact on racial groups
- Is there a negative impact? No

No specific negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

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- Describe how this proposal could impact on Sex and Gender identity (include pregnancy and maternity, marriage, gender re-assignment)
 - Is there a negative impact? No

No specific negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

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- Describe how this proposal could impact on Disability
 - Is there a negative impact? Not sure

The proposal would result in the movement of existing disabled bays on Abbey Square further away from the junction with Kings Road. They will also result in the movement of some existing disabled bays on Kings Road, further east, away from the junction with Abbey Square. While this may be beneficial for some users, enabling them to park closer to their destination, it may be a negative impact to others, while additionally noting that there are alternative bays reasonably nearby in Kings Street and the free-of-charge use of the nearby Pay and Display bays for blue badge holders. The proposed increased width footway adjacent the bus shelters will improve access, reduce obstructions and make a safer environment for all.

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- Describe how this proposal could impact on Sexual orientation (cover civil partnership)
 - Is there a negative impact? No

No negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on age**
- **Is there a negative impact? No**

No specific negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Religious belief**
- **Is there a negative impact? No**

No specific negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on the Armed Forces community (including reservists and veterans and their families)**
- **Is there a negative impact? No**

No specific negative impact is anticipated at this stage. The proposed works are situated within the public highway and will benefit all users.

Make a Decision

If the impact is negative then you must consider whether you can legally justify it. If not you must set out how you will reduce or eliminate the impact. If you are not sure what the impact will be you **MUST** assume that there could be a negative impact. You may have to do further consultation or test out your proposal and monitor the impact before full implementation.

1. Negative impact identified or uncertain

What action will you take to eliminate or reduce the impact? Set out your actions and timescale

The proposals are yet to be formally consulted. This is a regulatory requirement and provides an opportunity to provide feedback over a 21-day period (objections are invited) that will be considered.

The content of this feedback may lead to a further revision to this impact assessment, to proposed potential adjustment of the scheme, and will be reported to a future Traffic Management Sub-Committee before any implementation (or otherwise) decision is taken by the Council.

It is the intension of officers to minimise the adjustments to existing waiting restrictions and to re-provide like-for-like sized bays where it is necessary to move existing restrictions to accommodate the proposed scheme.

- **How will you monitor for adverse impact in the future?**

As previously noted, these proposals are yet to be formally consulted and an implementation (or otherwise) decision is yet to be sought or made. The statutory consultation will provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the proposals and may influence what is delivered.

Feedback on waiting restrictions is monitored and the Council has a Waiting Restriction Review programme where requests for changes can be considered.



Completing officer: James Penman



Lead Officer: Sam Shean