

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO:              | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE   |              |   |
| DATE:            | 12 JUNE 2019   | AGENDA ITEM: | 6   |
| TITLE:           | SCHOOL CROSSING FACILITY UPGRADES  |              |   |
| 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 an update on improvements to school crossing facilities in the Borough, following the decision of Policy Committee in February 2018 to progress savings to the school crossing patroller budget.
- 1.2 This report provides a proposal for a controlled crossing for Caversham Primary School, which would complement the savings proposal.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 provides the design proposal for a new zebra crossing to serve Caversham Primary School.

#### 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 carry out the Statutory Notice procedures for the intention to install a new zebra crossing, as set out in Appendix A and Item 4.4, in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

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| <p><b>2.3 That subject to the results of utility investigations, safety audit and serving of the Section 23 notice, the crossing be implemented to contribute toward the agreed savings proposal.</b></p> |
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### **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Local authorities have a duty to promote road safety in accordance with Section 10, Part 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, meaning that a local authority is required to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety, and is empowered to make contributions to the cost of measures for promoting road safety taken by other authorities or bodies.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The Council works with all schools in the Borough to promote safe and sustainable travel to schools, including a programme of road safety education initiatives and the implementation and monitoring of school travel plans. This work also includes the provision of school crossing patrollers at a limited number of locations (Caversham Primary School, Redlands Primary School, Alfred Sutton Primary School and St Mary's & All Saints Primary School).
- 4.2 Following the decision of Policy Committee in February 2018 to progress savings to the school crossing patroller budget, the potential to make improvements to school crossing facilities at schools which currently have a crossing patroller have been investigated, as set out below.
- 4.3 A zebra crossing has been installed on Wensley Road, outside St Mary's & All Saints Primary School, as part of the West Reading Transport Study. This crossing provides a significant improvement on the previous raised table at this location.
- 4.4 Caversham Primary School is currently served by a school crossing patroller located on Kidmore Road, to the south side of the junction with Oakley Road. Due to this location being a clear desire line and on the school-side of Oakley Road, Officers have investigated a possible location for a permanent controlled crossing (a zebra crossing).

Appendix 1 shows a design proposal for this crossing and Officers are seeking approval to serve a notice of intension for the placement of this crossing facility. Officers will firstly arrange for a utility plant search and safety audit to be conducted and also seek approval to make minor amendments to the design accordingly. Should the

implementation of the crossing at this location be found to be unfeasible, a further report to the Sub-Committee may be necessary.

This is a challenging location for a crossing, due to the location of driveway accesses and a relatively narrow footway. This is, however, the existing crossing desire-line and locating the crossing to the north side of the junction would necessitate further crossing facilities on Oakley Road, for which a suitable location cannot be identified. Complimentary alterations to the give-way on Oakley Road are intended to further aid visibility at the junction.

- 4.5 Alfred Sutton Primary School is served by signalised crossings on Wokingham Road, however, we are aware of the desire for a 'controlled' crossing (e.g. zebra or signalised) on Crescent Road also.

Controlled crossings require a long stretch of clear (un-parked) road, away from junctions and accesses. Unfortunately, we do not consider that there is a suitable location for a controlled crossing on Crescent Road (between Bulmershe Road and Wokingham Road) due to the proliferation of driveway accesses along the street and up to the junctions.

Officers will investigate potential improvements that could provide some informal/uncontrolled crossing improvements.

- 4.6 There is an existing zebra crossing facility for pupils attending Redlands Primary School on Addington Road (at the junction with Hatherley Road) which is currently used by the school crossing patroller. This facility is considered to be sufficient and therefore no alterations are being recommended.
- 4.7 Opportunities to provide enhanced crossing facilities at other schools within the Borough will continue to be investigated, subject to available budgets, as part of our on-going work with schools to promote safe and sustainable travel.

## **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 In accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, a notice of intension to install a new crossing will be placed at

its intended location on Kidmore Road, should implementation be considered feasible.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 In accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, a notice of intension to install a new crossing will be placed at its intended location on Kidmore Road, should implementation be considered feasible.

## **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.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Funding for the installation of the improved crossing facilities as set out within this report has been specifically identified from transport budgets to deliver the saving as agreed at Policy Committee.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 School Crossing Patrol Policy (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013)
- 10.2 Budget 2018-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Policy Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018)