

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 NOVEMBER 2019		AGENDA ITEM: 11
TITLE:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES - CIL FUNDED SCHEMES		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides concept designs for requested traffic management schemes that have received funding from local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions.
- 1.2 This report recommends that the Sub-Committee agrees to Officers progressing with the necessary statutory processes that will enable delivery of these schemes, as proposed.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 the concept scheme designs.

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 processes for each scheme, as per Item 4.4.
- 2.3 That subject to no objections being received, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal any resultant Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 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 The Council has allocated CIL funding to enable the delivery of a number of traffic management schemes, the majority of which originated from the 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report that is brought to this Sub-Committee twice annually.**
- 4.2 Officers have conducted initial investigation works, obtained indicative quotations and have provided Ward Councillors with recommended concept designs that they feel should be deliverable, within the allocated budgets.**

Ward Councillors have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the concept schemes.

- 4.3 Officers intend to progress these schemes to a detailed feasibility and design stage, which for most will necessitate external road safety audits, speed surveys and possible ground investigation works to be conducted. These processes will necessitate the use of the CIL contributions.**

Many of these schemes will require statutory consultation or notification to be conducted. This report seeks to obtain the necessary approvals from the Sub-Committee, to enable officers to progress with the necessary processes that can lead to the delivery of the schemes.

Sub-Committee members are asked to note that this report does not guarantee the implementation of these schemes, as shown in the concept drawings. Should any significant alterations be necessary, or objections to the consultations received, officers will bring further reports back to the Sub-Committee. Should this not be the case, it is intended that officers progress the schemes to delivery.

4.4 Appendix 1 provides the concept drawings for the schemes and the following provides the decisions that officers are seeking:

a. Zebra Crossing on Gosbrook Road (£50k)

Agreements: 1) Statutory consultation for the proposed reduction of the parking bay and replacement with double-yellow-lines; and 2) Issuing notice of intension to install new zebra crossing.

Notes: The scheme aims to future-proof the crossing by installing a ‘tiger crossing’ facility for cyclists also - future schemes can add linking cycle infrastructure. Accesses to the park necessitate that the crossing is offset from the Christchurch Meadows footpath and the alterations to parking are necessary to provide the required level of visibility for pedestrians and motorists.

b. Zebra crossing for access to The Ridgeway school (£50k)

Agreements: 1) Statutory consultation for the proposed implementation of double-yellow-lines, as shown; and 2) Issuing notice of intension to install new zebra crossing.

Notes: The scheme proposes to implement a zebra crossing to the east of the school, which was necessary due to the banked verges further west. The proposed parking restrictions protect the visibility for pedestrians and motorists around the crossing and reinforce the Highway Code, with respect to not parking close to junctions. The scheme also proposes the upgrading of an informal crossing point to the west of the school, where the banked verges flatten.

c. Extension of 20mph zone past Reading Girls School (£40k)

Agreements: 1) Statutory consultation for the proposed 20mph zone restriction; and 2) Issuing notice of intension to install vertical traffic calming features (speed cushions/humps and raised table).

Notes: The scheme proposes a variety of measures to complement and encourage motorists to obey the lower speed limit. The scheme also introduces two informal crossing points to the northern and southern sides of Reading Girls School. While it would have been preferable for such a feature near to the school entrance, the proliferation of driveway accesses and other street features have not enabled this.

d. Signs for HGVs (Elgar Road South) (£50k)

Agreements: None required.

Notes: The scheme proposes to capture HGV traffic on a number of different approach routes and improve the signing to help these vehicles reach Elgar Road South and to avoid the Berkeley Avenue bridges, which are weight-restricted. Existing signs are being replaced, with the content consolidated and adjusted to make them clearer - additional signing has been avoided wherever possible.

e. 20mph zone and width restriction, Brunswick St and Western Rd (£50k)	Officers are considering options with Ward Councillors and intend to bring an update to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
f. To reduce speeding on Southcote Road and Westcote Road (£30k)	Agreements: 1) Statutory consultation for the proposed 20mph zone restriction; and 2) Issuing notice of intension to install vertical traffic calming features (speed cushions/humps and raised table). Notes: The scheme proposes a number of physical and lining measures to complement and encourage motorists to obey the lower speed limit. It is considered necessary to include Parkside Road (and roads off of this street) in this scheme, to create a cohesive 20mph zone. This, however, will be a challenge given the limited budget. It may be necessary to install a scheme with fewer/lesser physical traffic calming measures as a result.
g. Improvements to double roundabout signing, Grovelands Rd (£15k)	Agreements: None required. Notes: The scheme comprises of changes to the appearance of the road surface on the approaches to the junctions. Ward Councillors have requested that any remaining funding be used to conduct some carriageway patching/repairs, which officers agree will assist with the appearance and longevity of the lining scheme.
h. Pedestrian Crossings, Oxford Road and Overdown Road (£50k)	Agreements: Issuing notice of intension to install new zebra crossing. Notes: The scheme seeks to install a 'tiger' crossing on Oxford Road, which provides a controlled crossing for pedestrians and complements the surrounding cycling facilities also. It should be noted that there is significant reconstruction work required to accommodate this facility, so officers intend to prioritise this feature with the funding available. Officers propose upgrading the informal crossing at Overdown Road, which will include carriageway imprinting if possible within the allocated budget.
i. Enforcement of 20mph areas (£100k)	Agreements: None required at this time. Notes: Members and Officers have engaged with Thames Valley Police. Research has been conducted into on-street speed indicator devices that have calibrated ANPR cameras included. It is proposed that one or more of these devices be installed at an agreeable location and that an agreement can be reached whereby Thames Valley Police can use the captured data to contact owners of speeding vehicles to warn them of their speeding - they conduct similar exercises with other community speed watch programmes. The devices are quoted at £26k each, before electrical connections,

data connectivity and camera calibration costs.

Discussions with Members will continue, regarding other measures that could be introduced to complement and reinforce the 20mph restrictions, within the allocated budget.

- 4.5 Officers have developed concept proposals for the privately-funded request for a controlled pedestrian crossing in Pepper Lane. A concept has also been produced for a controlled pedestrian crossing on Upper Redlands Road, for which a modest private contribution has also been raised.

Officers will be sharing these proposals with the funding contributors and will report the proposals to the Sub-Committee following any necessary alterations.

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 will be advertised in the local printed newspaper and will be erected on lamp columns within the affected area.
- 6.2 Notices of intension will be given in accordance with appropriate legislation and printed copies will be placed on site. The Police are the statutory consultee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 New, or changes to existing, Traffic Regulation Orders 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. The resultant Traffic Regulation Order will be sealed in accordance with the same regulations.
- 7.2 Notice will be given for the implementation of zebra crossings under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, in consultation with the Police.

7.3 Notice will be given for the implementation of vertical traffic calming features under Section 90C of the Highways Act 1980, 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 These schemes will be funded from the allocated local CIL contributions. These contributions are to cover the whole project costs, not just the deliverables, so the proposals may need to be adapted (scaled-down) to ensure that they do not overspend the allocations.

9.2 The CIL contributions do not provide additional revenue funding, so the maintenance cost implications of any measure will need to be carefully considered.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Requests for New Traffic Management Measures (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, September 2019).