

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & SPORT

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY PANEL		
DATE:	11 NOVEMBER 2009	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	READING STATION - PROPOSED CENTRAL AREA HIGHWAY WORKS OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC ORDERS		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In September 2009 a report was presented to the Traffic Management Advisory Panel updating on the Reading Station Capacity and Performance Upgrade and associated projects and seeking approval to promote the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders in the Central Area in order to facilitate changes to the highway as a result of the Reading Station Upgrade Scheme.
- 1.2 This report details the eight objections received to the advertised proposals. The Statutory Consultation promoted various changes to movement and waiting restrictions in the Central Area.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - Table of objections and officer responses.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Panel note the report.
- 2.2 That the following recommendations are made to Cabinet:
 - 2.2.1 That the Head of Transport implement the proposals as advertised.

2.2.2 That no Public Inquiry is held into the proposals.

2.2.3 That the objectors are notified accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport and Planning Policy.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The Reading Station Capacity and Performance Upgrade scheme comprises of:-

PHASE 1 (2008-2012)

Performance Improvements - New platforms to the north of the existing platforms, relocation of the current rail depot (from within the triangle at Cow Lane) to land adjacent to the main line and resolving rail access issues (delays entering the station while waiting for a vacant platform) from the east and west to both the new and existing platforms.

PHASE 2 (2012-2015)

Performance and Capacity Improvements - Grade separation (i.e. by a change in levels) of the Great Western Mainline and the Southampton/Birmingham Lines (the Basingstoke line), including the replacement of both Cow Lane Bridges.

4.2 As reported and agreed at the September 2009 meetings of the Traffic Management Advisory Panel and Cabinet, the Statutory Consultation for the Traffic Regulation Orders associated with Phase 1 of the Rail Scheme was carried out between 15 October 2009 and 5 November 2009.

4.3 The Statutory Consultation included three further public exhibitions detailing the proposed changes and was supported by a public awareness campaign highlighting the dates and locations of the exhibitions. Leaflets were located at the Civic Centre, Reading Town Hall, Reading Libraries, the Reading Borough Council Website and on Reading Buses. The leaflets were also sent to the Transport e-group.

4.4 The exhibitions took place at the following locations:-

- 21 October 2009, Reading Station Forecourt, 14.00 - 20.00
- 28 October 2009, Broad Street East, 11.00 - 17.00
- 03 November 2009, Civic Centre, 12.00 - 17.00

4.5 The eight objections received to the proposals are detailed in Appendix 1 and include the officer responses based upon the content of each objection.

4.6 It is recommended, based upon the content of the objections and the officer responses detailed, that the Traffic Orders be made as advertised and that no Public Inquiry be held into the proposals.

4.7 Provision is made in the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulation 1996 for a Public Inquiry to be held into proposals. The decision whether or not to hold such an Inquiry is a matter of discretion for the Highway Authority.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Statutory consultations have been carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The proposals for movement and waiting restrictions were advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 as appropriate.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 TMAP report on 10 September 2009.

9.2 Cabinet Reports - 14 April 2009, 1 December 2008, 29 September 2008, 29 October 2007 and 14 February 2005.

9.3 Letters of objection.