

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
<b>DATE:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 5</b>	
<b>TITLE:</b>	RESUBMISSION OF PETITION TO CANCEL PLANS TO SWITCH OFF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT BROAD STREET/WEST STREET JUNCTION		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	TONY PAGE	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
<b>SERVICE:</b>	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	<b>WARDS:</b>	ABBEY
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee the resubmission of a petition, with additional signatories, asking the Council to cancel plans to switch off the traffic lights at the Broad Street/West Street junction. This petition was originally presented to the committee in March 2015.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That this traffic signal switch-off is being carried out on a trial basis and a full evaluation report is included as agenda item 7, at this same meeting, for the Sub-Committee to consider.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of pedestrian crossing facilities and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

#### **4. THE PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 A petition has been received asking the Council, "To cancel plans to switch off the traffic lights at the Broad Street/West Street junction."
- 4.2 The petition goes on to state that "Elderly and disabled people in particular would be put in danger. Generally, the loss of these lights would mean that pedestrians have to estimate whether or not they have time to cross the road before oncoming traffic reaches them. This is nerve wracking when you know that drivers may not allow for you to be slower than most".
- 4.3 "In particular, blind people depend on the beeps that sound when the traffic lights are on green for pedestrians. Without those they are lost and have to depend on strangers who may know nothing about guiding them - nor care - to take them across. That at the same time as RBC is planning to cut spending on disabled adults supposedly in the interests of improving their independence!"
- 4.4 The traffic signal switch off is being carried out on a trial basis and a full evaluation report is included as agenda item 7, at this same meeting, for the Sub-Committee to consider.

#### **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 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

#### **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.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising from this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Petition originally submitted to the March meeting of the TM Subcommittee.