

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	UNIVERSITY & HOSPITAL AREA STUDY - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	REDLANDS
LEAD OFFICERS:	CRIS BUTLER CHRIS MADDOCKS	TEL:	0118 937 2068 0118 937 2138
JOB TITLE:	STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME MANAGER TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER	E-MAIL:	Cris.butler@reading.gov.uk Chris.Maddocks@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-Committee on the latest position with regard to the identification of transport issues and potential solutions in the residential areas around the University of Reading and Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- 1.2 A consultation was undertaken in May 2012 on the principle of prioritising parking for local residents through introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme, to include elements of pay and display parking, alongside complementary transport measures in the local area. The scheme was proposed to help address the issues previously identified by residents through the study.
- 1.3 Due to the mixed nature of responses received through the consultation, the study Steering Group took the decision not to proceed with the proposed parking scheme at that time. It was agreed that the study would continue working closely with key stakeholders, including the University and Hospital, to reassess the feasibility of introducing the complementary transport schemes as outlined in the consultation and as supported through feedback received from residents.

- 1.4 This work has continued over the past few years, and alongside detailed discussions with key stakeholders, a second set of proposals has recently been completed. A local consultation including a local exhibition has since taken place in September and October 2015 by the Redlands Ward Councillors on the latest plans.
- 1.5 At the January 2016 meeting of this Sub-Committee, Members approved progression to Statutory Consultation on a series of new parking restrictions located to the west of Alexandra Road (including Alexandra Road) and to not progress the proposals promoted to the east of Alexandra Road due to feedback received during the informal consultation.
- 1.6 Following the meeting of this Sub-Committee in January 2016, Redlands Ward Councillors have continued to liaise with residents on issues identified by residents regarding parking and traffic management in the area. This has resulted in a number of further specific proposals which residents are keen to pursue and these are set out at paragraph 4.9 and 4.10.
- 1.7 This report provides an update on when the Statutory Consultation will take place and the subsequent next steps.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report.
- 2.2 That the following additional items are included within the forthcoming Statutory Consultation:-
 - a) Amend the hours of operation for residents parking in Marlborough Avenue to Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 5.30pm. No restrictions on Saturday or Sunday.
 - b) Introduce Monday to Sunday, no waiting at any time restrictions in Lydford Road.
- 2.3 That Officers investigate the introduction of a "permit holder parking beyond this point" scheme in Cardigan Road, Cardigan Gardens and Foxhill Road on a model based on the schemes in some London Boroughs which avoid the need for marked parking bays.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading's transport strategy is contained within the LTP 2011-2026, which reviews challenges and opportunities throughout Reading and proposes Local Action Plans to be developed in neighbourhoods to address these challenges. These Action Plan Areas are based on a division of the urban area identified in the LTP 2006-2011, and represent continuity in implementing multi-targeted transport measures throughout Reading.
- 4.2 The LTP's vision is based on the vision for Reading set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy by the Local Strategic Partnership. The vision is supported by a number of overarching objectives and enabling policies, which are in turn supported by detailed policies and objectives on a variety of themes, from cycling and parking to road safety and travel information. The policies and objectives for each theme are designed to help identify actions to address issues in local neighbourhoods.
- 4.3 In line with the LTP, a consultation was undertaken in May 2012 on the principle of prioritising parking in the Hospital and University area for local residents through introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme, to include elements of pay and display parking, alongside complementary transport measures in the local area. The scheme was proposed to help address the issues previously identified by residents through the study.
- 4.4 Due to the mixed nature of responses received through the consultation, the study Steering Group took the decision not to proceed with the proposed parking scheme at that time. It was agreed to continue with the study and focus on continuing to work closely with key stakeholders, including the University and Hospital, to reassess the feasibility of introducing the complementary transport schemes as outlined in the consultation and as supported through feedback received from residents.
- 4.5 This work has continued over the past few years, and recently, a second set of proposals were prepared by the Council and presented for consultation by the Redlands Ward Councillors.
- 4.6 Redlands Ward Councillors promoted the latest set of proposals via a local leaflet delivered to all properties in the study area, information on the Redlands Councillors website, and a local exhibition took place at St Lukes Church Hall on Monday 28 September 2015 between 5:00pm to 7:00pm supported by Council Transport Officers.
- 4.7 A report was submitted to this Sub-Committee in January 2016 confirming the results of the informal consultation and liaison with the Emergency Services. Members approved progression of the proposals located to the west of Alexandra Road (including Alexandra Road) to Statutory Consultation as these proposals were in general well received. However, due to the feedback received from Residents and the Emergency Services, Members agreed that the proposals to the east of Alexandra Road were not progressed any further.

- 4.8 Following the meeting of this Sub Committee in January, Redlands Ward Councillors have continued to liaise with residents on issues identified by residents regarding parking and traffic management in the area.
- 4.9 It is now proposed that the following further items are included in the Statutory Consultation:
- a) Amend the hours of operation for residents parking in Marlborough Avenue to Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 5.30pm. No restrictions on Saturday or Sunday.
 - b) Introduce Monday to Sunday, no waiting at any time restrictions in Lydford Road.
- 4.10 It is also proposed that Officers investigate the introduction of a “permit holder parking beyond this point” scheme in Cardigan Road, Cardigan Gardens and Foxhill Road on a model based on the schemes in some London Boroughs which avoid the need for marked parking bays.
- 4.11 The agreed Statutory Consultation is due to take place mid May 2016 for a period of 21 days. Consultation notices will be placed on-street within the consultation area, alongside promotion via the Council Website and Social Media platforms.
- 4.12 If objections are received to the proposals, those objections will be reported to the June 2016 meeting of this Sub-Committee for review. If no objections are received, the proposals will proceed to implementation over the summer months.
- 4.13 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The delivery of the projects outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The projects have and will continue to be communicated to the local community through local exhibitions and Council meetings.

6.2 Statutory Consultation.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Statutory Consultation will be completed in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

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 has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment scoping exercise and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None relating to this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports.