

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 JANUARY 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	WEST READING TRANSPORT STUDY - UPDATE		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-Committee on progress with the West Reading Transport Study.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the contents of this report and agrees that officers continue to work up specific proposals for transport projects in the study area.

2.2 That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out a statutory consultation and advertise the proposed set out in paras 5.2 and 5.4 of this report in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

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| <p>2.3 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.</p> <p>2.4 That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> |
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3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with Reading Borough Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for the period 2011-26 and current traffic management policies and standards.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council, as the Local Highway Authority, is responsible for the provision, improvement and maintenance of transport infrastructure within the Borough. In support of this work the Council has developed a number of area transport studies to investigate transport improvements for the area in line with the Council's objectives as set out in the Local Transport Plan 2011-26.

- 4.2 The West Reading Transport Study was established in June 2015, with the purpose of identifying, defining and prioritising transport schemes within Southcote and the western section of Coley Park. The overriding objective of the study is to take a balanced approach to enhancing the local area and connecting links, through measures that improve accessibility, road safety for all users, better managing traffic and parking, and encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking.

- 4.3 The West Reading Transport Study Steering Group has been established to direct progress of the study. The group is chaired by the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, and includes membership from the Ward Councillors for Southcote and Minster. Representatives of other organisations are invited to attend Steering Group meetings as appropriate.

5. THE PROPOSALS

Southcote

- 5.1 A list of measures proposed for statutory consultation was reported to this Committee in November, following the public exhibition held in Southcote in the summer.

- 5.2 In addition to the measures as set out in the September report, it is now proposed to include an additional proposal to extend the waiting

restrictions on Southcote Lane at the junction with Bath Road within the statutory consultation, as has previously been proposed through the Council's Annual Waiting Restrictions Review. This proposed measure would improve the flow of buses and general traffic on Southcote Lane on the approach to the Bath Road.

- 5.3 It should be noted that implementation of the measures in Southcote as outlined in this report is subject to funding being made available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contribution from the developer of the former Elvian school site on Southcote Lane.

Coley Park

- 5.4 A summary of responses received from the public exhibition in Coley Park in September was reported to this Committee in November. The feedback has subsequently been reviewed by the Study Steering Group and the following proposals have been developed for statutory consultation:

- a. Improvements to the existing pedestrian and cycle link between Southcote and Coley Park.
- b. Improvements to the pedestrian cycle route between Wensley Road and Coley Avenue (running behind the former DEFRA offices site).
- c. Enhancements to the pedestrian route between Coley Avenue and Wensley Road.
- d. Implementation of a partial one-way system on the Wensley Road loop to improve the flow of buses (particularly at the north west section).
- e. Implementation of a pedestrian crossing facility on Wensley Road outside St Mary & All Saints Primary School.
- f. Implementation of herringbone pattern road markings at the roundabout junction of Wensley Road / Rembrandt Way to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian accessibility.
- g. Implementation of road markings to reduce traffic speeds on Wensley Road approaching the roundabout junction with Rembrandt Way.
- h. Provision of inset parking bays on the south side of Wensley Road and Holybrook Road.
- i. Provision of a passing point for traffic at the summit on Holybrook Road to improve the flow of buses at this existing pinch point.

- j. Implementation of access protection markings on Boston Avenue and Shaw Road to provide protection for resident's driveways.
- k. Introduction of an area wide 20mph zone to include all roads within Coley Park south of Berkeley Avenue.

5.5 It is proposed that statutory consultation through a Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken for the proposals outlined above, with any objections reported to the meeting of this Committee in March.

5.6 In addition, it is proposed that the Council will continue to monitor the increased demand for parking on Boston Avenue and Shaw Road, in the absence of a clear consensus from residents regarding the introduction of a Resident's Parking scheme on these roads at this time.

5.7 It should be noted that implementation of any measures in Coley Park will be subject to funding being made available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contribution from the developer of the former DEFRA offices site.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 6.1 The delivery of schemes 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.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Informal consultation has been undertaken as described above.

7.2 Statutory consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Any resultant Traffic Regulation Order will be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 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.

9.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment for transport project proposals in the study area.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None at present. The proposals outlined in this report cannot be implemented until funding has been made available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from the developer of the former Elvian school site on Southcote Lane and the former DEFRA offices site in Coley Park.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 West Reading Transport Study, Traffic Management Sub-Committee Reports from June 2015.