



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)

UPDATE OF LOCAL HIGHWAYS PROGRAMME 13 February 2009

KEY ISSUE

To update the Committee on the planned minor improvements programme.

SUMMARY

The regular highway update is included within Annex 1.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Runnymede) is asked to agree that:

- a) **The Committee notes and approves the rolling feasibility, design and construction programme, and funding arrangements, as contained in the report and annex 1;**

- b) **The Local Highway Manager be authorised to enter into an appropriate legal agreement with TESIS school (or their approved agent) to facilitate the construction works to Coldharbour Close, as described in this report.**

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 There is a regular report updating Members on the minor improvements programme within Runnymede. Over the years a number of reports have been presented to this committee and formed the basis for the forward programme.
- 1.2 The forward programmed is reassessed after the annual Members' tour. The next tour is scheduled for this summer 2009.

2.0 Significant scheme delivery / alterations to the previous reported programme

2.1 Chertsey Lane, Hythe pedestrian refuge island

A pedestrian refuge island and associated local footway improvements was completed towards the end of 2008.

2.2 Pycroft Road, Chertsey puffin crossing

This crossing has now been commissioned and is fully operational.

2.3 Green Lane, Addlestone puffin crossing

At the time of writing, works are nearing completion. Unforeseen ground conditions delayed progress, but it is anticipated that the crossing will be commissioned in February 2009.

2.4 Footway works

As a result of the additional money allocated by the Leader to highway improvements (19 Sept 08 Transportation update report) footway reconstruction works have been completed at Parkside Woodham and Pooley Avenue at Pooley Green. These works appear to have been generally well received.

2.5 Local Structural Repair

Structural repair works have been completed on St Peters Way (on approach to Addleston Moor Roundabout). Due to the high costs

associated with this type of work, the other identified sites reported in September will not be completed this financial year.

2.6 *Windsor Road pedestrian refuge island*

The provision of the above has been on the forward programme for a number of years. Due to the limited width of the carriageway, it is not possible to install a pedestrian refuge island without limited road widening. The original intension was to widen the road to the south, on National Trust land. Unfortunately despite local agreement and the National Trust being a key promoter of the scheme, their head office declined permission. Subsequently land was secured to the north through a S106 agreement associated with a planning application for the "World Duty Free" site. In November 2008 the Borough Council were advised that the application has been withdrawn. Therefore it is not possible to construct a refuge island and it has been removed from the forward programme.

2.7 *Woodham Lane Environmental Improvement scheme*

2.7.1 In September it was reported that an additional £20,000 had been made available by the Leader for improvements to The Broadway, New Haw. Discussions have been held with Runnymede Borough Council and a joint initiative has been developed. The Divisional Member has been involved in the discussions and supports the proposal. The Borough is intending to provide a financial contribution that will enable a more comprehensive scheme. The County welcomes this and Officers will ensure all necessary licenses are agreed to enable the Borough to legally undertake works on the highway.

2.7.2 At the 2007 Members' tour a minor improvement scheme for Woodham Lane was considered and subsequently approved by the Local Committee. This is in the forward programme for construction in 2010/11 with a £25,000 allocation for construction. Due to the close proximity of both sites, this has been brought forward to 2009/10. The intention is for all works to be completed at the same time to minimise any inconvenience for local residents and businesses. The forward programme has been updated to reflect this.

3. **Coldharbour Close, Thorpe**

3.1 TESIS school has approached the County Council looking to improve vehicular access to Coldharbour Close. Coldharbour Close is a small cul-de-sac serving ten properties. The school grounds can be accessed from the Close and at certain times of the day due to the volume of vehicles local residents can experience problems with accessing their properties.

- 3.2 The proposal is to remove the eastern footway and widen the carriageway, enabling two vehicles to pass more easily. This footway is an isolated length of approximately 32 metres. There is another footway on the western side of Coldharbour Close which will remain, enabling pedestrian access to the cul-de-sac. The removal of the eastern footway will not adversely impact on accessibility to the cul-de-sac.
- 3.3 TESIS school has undertaken initial consultation with local residents and there appears to be support. The Divisional County Member is aware of the proposal and has no objection. If, after obtaining detailed cost estimates TESIS wish to proceed with the scheme, the County Council will independently contact all residents to ensure that there is substantial agreement.
- 3.4 If the proposal goes ahead, all costs will be met by TESIS school. Subject to the approval of this Committee, the County Council will enter into a legal agreement with the school. This will ensure that all works are constructed to the required specification by approved contractors, and provide a means of legal redress if there are any disputes.

4. Options

- 4.1 A variety of options were considered as part of the annual Members' tour.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Appropriate consultation will be undertaken at all stages of scheme delivery. This will include Members, Police and residents as necessary.

6. Value for money and financial implications

- 6.1 Costs will be met from agreed budgets. Allocations for 2009/10 have not yet been determined so assumptions have been made. The actual budget allocation will be reported at the June meeting of this Committee.
- 6.2 Consistent with previous updates there has been a deliberate over allocation. The total cost for 2009/10 and 2010/11 have been reduced from those presented at the last meeting due to Windsor Road and Woodham Lane alterations. Nevertheless there is still an over allocation. This is because minor improvement schemes do on occasion become delayed and not completed in the original timescale. Officers will ensure that the budgets are properly managed and used in line with the agreed priorities of this Committee. The update will continue to be reviewed to reflect scheme progress and available funding in the next financial year.

6.3 Schemes will be designed and constructed by the County Council's partner constructor, Ringway.

7. Equality and diversity implications

7.1 None

8. Crime and disorder implications

8.1 None

9. Conclusion and recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the amendments to the forward programme detailed in this report are approved and that authority is given to Officers to continue negotiations with TESIS school and enter into legal agreements as necessary to undertake works at Coldharbour Close.

10. Reasons for recommendations

10.1 The recommended schemes are consistent with County Council objectives and those of the County Council's Local Transport Plan. Their inclusion will ensure a full forward programme of works.

11. What happens next

11.1 Officers will work to deliver the approved programme.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None