

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

JOINT COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

DATE: 30 NOVEMBER, 2020
LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER



SUBJECT: A308 STAINES ROAD WEST / SCHOOL ROAD JUNCTION:
 PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSINGS

DIVISIONS: SUNBURY COMMON & ASHFORD COMMON, ASHFORD,
 LALEHAM & SHEPPERTON.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

A scheme is proposed to introduce two controlled toucan crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists across at the A308 Staines Road West / School Road Junction to link communities which are currently severed by these roads. This report seeks authority to advertise a notice for these toucan crossings, to advertise and make Traffic Regulation Orders to implement changes to waiting restrictions that may be required at this junction and to approve the construction of this scheme. If authorised, the construction of this scheme is expected to be funded primarily by Highways England Designated Funds.

This report has been admitted as a late report to the 30 November meeting as it is a key decision affecting more than 2 divisions and it was deemed unreasonable for this item to be held over until the next committee date as this would have had the potential to adversely effect the start of the construction for this project.

The Chairman of the Select Committee (Communities, Environment & Highways) has approved the late inclusion of this report in adherence to the Special Urgency Rules (Standing Orders 56.1 and 56.2) and this abides by the Council's Constitution Standing Order 44.2 and the Local Government Act 1972 (Article 6) relating to late agenda items.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to:**

- (i) Authorise the advertisement of the Legal Notice for the proposed signalised toucan crossings across the A308 Staines Road West (eastern arm of junction) and across School Road (see **Annex A** for location of proposed toucan crossings).
- (ii) Authorise the advertisement of a notice in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to implement any new waiting restrictions that are required at the junction in relation to the proposed new toucan crossings, revoke any existing traffic orders necessary to implement the changes, and, subject to no objections being upheld, that the order be made.

Cont'd over

- (iii) Authorise delegation of authority to the Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Divisional Member(s) to consider any representations and resolve any objections received in connection with the proposals.
- (iv) Approve the construction of the scheme subject to the outcome of (ii) above (see **Annex B** for a layout drawing of the proposed scheme.)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To enable new signalised toucan crossings to be constructed at the A308 Staines Road West and School Road junction in Spelthorne.

These crossings would support more healthy and sustainable travel through the junction.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Toucan crossings are proposed to unlock latent demand for active travel modes by addressing the severance and road safety issues that this junction currently presents.
- 1.2 The primary objectives are to: support walking and cycling through the junction and improve road safety.
- 1.3 The junction is a significant barrier to local people as it severs communities and impedes safe access to the multiple nearby education facilities, employment sites and shopping destinations. This junction also falls within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Petitions have been raised by local residents to improve safety at this junction and the scheme has previously been supported by the Spelthorne Joint Committee.
- 1.4 Despite strong local support unfortunately there has never been sufficient funding to deliver the scale of scheme required to resolve the issues.
- 1.5 A case for £835k Highways England Designated Funds has been approved by Highways England and combined with £152k S106 funding, would fund the detailed design and construction of this scheme.
- 1.6 Authority is sought to advertise notices and make necessary orders required to construct the scheme.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Currently there are no crossing facilities across the A308 at this location and only informal crossing points exist across School Road. This creates a major barrier to people walking and cycling to destinations such as Ashford town centre, employment hubs such as Heathrow Airport and the BP site, as well as children accessing the multiple schools and the college nearby.
- 2.2 In five years to the end of 2019 there were 15 collisions at this location with seven of these resulting in serious injury. This project will help to address issues and is intended to reduce the accident frequency. Alongside improvements to the junction, through safe crossing points, the scheme also includes a combined speed and red light camera which will help deter current issues of speeding and red light violations.
- 2.3 Officers are aware that the road safety of pedestrians crossing the A308 Staines Road West and School Road has been a concern to local residents. A petition has previously been submitted to Spelthorne Joint Committee regarding the safety issues at the junction and the Joint Committee has previously supported the need for improvements at this junction and provided funding to update design work.
- 2.4 Expected funding from Highways England Designated Funds combined with additional S106 funding would now enable this scheme to advance through detailed design and construction.
- 2.5 It is proposed that construction of the scheme would be completed by March 2022.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 OPTION 1

Authorise the recommendations of this Report which would enable the construction of the proposed crossings.

3.2 OPTION 2

Do not authorise the recommendations of this Report which would prevent the scheme being progressed. The expected Highways England Designated Funds funding would be lost and there would be no guarantee that a future bid to fund improvements at this junction would be successful.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 Public to be consulted through the advertisements of notices and orders.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The costs of the works to deliver the changes at this junction including detailed design and construction are estimated to be £987k.

5.2 The scheme would be funded with £835k from Highways England Designated Funds and £152k S106 funding.

5.3 The funding as per the legal agreement with Highways England is subject to the detailed design and construction being completed by the end of Q4 2021-2022.

5.4 A Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.8 was calculated as part of the assessment which led to Highways England approving the award of Designated Funds funding, which is subject to a Legal Agreement being Agreed between Highways England and Surrey County Council.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 The Highway Service is mindful of the localism agenda, and the wishes of the local community are taken into account wherever possible.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	Set out below.

8.1 Crime and Disorder implications

A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to enforce speed controls.

8.2 Sustainability

The creation of new toucan crossings would encourage use of sustainable transport and therefore would have carbon reduction benefits.

8.3 Public Health

The scheme would have public health benefits through promoting active travel.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 It is recommended that Option 1 is implemented as set out in paragraph 3.1.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Subject to Joint Committee approval work on the detailed design would be developed and construction of the scheme is expected to start in 2021.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Public to be consulted through the advertisements of notice/order.

Annexes:

Annex A – Location of the proposed toucan crossings.
Annex B – Layout drawing of the proposed scheme.

Sources/background papers:

None.

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