

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity
2.	Date:	9 January 2011
3.	Title:	Accessibility Improvements – Phase 3 – Doncaster Road, East Dene
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of a proposed accessibility improvement scheme on Doncaster Road, East Dene, and the receipt of two objections from residents.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that:

- i) The two objections, one for each proposed zebra crossing, are not acceded to and the objectors are informed of the decision.**
- ii) Implementation of the scheme, as shown on drawing number 126/17/TT115—REVB, commences in the 2011/2012 financial year.**
- iii) the scheme be joint funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2011/12 and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant 2011/12**

7. Proposals and Details

As part of the accessibility planning strategy an accessibility improvement scheme was developed for Doncaster Road, East Dene between Herringthorpe Valley Road and Rotherham Town Centre. This scheme aims to improve sustainable access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users to local facilities and services and to reduce the segregation between neighbouring communities.

This scheme was first described and separated into three phases in the 28 October 2008 report to Cabinet Member "Proposed Accessibility Improvements. Doncaster Road, St Ann's to East Dene" (minute 124 refers). Phase 1 (Herringthorpe Valley Road to Far Lane) and Phase 2 (Middle Lane to Wharncliffe Street) have now been implemented.

Phase 3 (Middle Lane to Far Lane) has now been designed and it is proposed that implementation of the scheme, as shown on Drawing no.126/17/TT115-REVB (Appendix A), commences this financial year. This will link Phases 1 and 2 and complete the corridor.

Phase 3 proposals include:

- A zebra crossing between Cranworth Road and Oxford Street with a footway build out to narrow the kerb to kerb width of the carriageway. This requires the removal of a refuge.
- A zebra crossing adjacent to East Dene Junior and Infant School. The footway would also be built out on the northern side of the road to narrow the width carriageway and a nearby bus stop would be moved to accommodate the zebra crossing.
- A pedestrian refuge near Vulcan house, Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Court residential care homes.
- Junction entry treatments to continue the footway across the accesses to Vulcan house, Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Court residential care homes.
- The continuation of the westbound uphill cycle lane from the end of the Phase 1 Accessibility Improvement scheme to the proposed zebra crossing at Oxford Street. This will include lining amendments to narrow the carriageway and encourage lower traffic speeds in both directions between the junction with Far Lane and the zebra crossing.
- A new eastbound uphill cycle lane from the Selwood flats to the Oxford Street Zebra Crossing
- Bus stops within the extent of the scheme are proposed to be made accessible to those less mobile by the use of raised kerbs and identifiable to the visually impaired by the use of textured paving.

- Tactile crossing points on side roads and at existing refuges within the extents of the scheme.

Consultation and information for affected frontages and other properties was undertaken in November 2011. This resulted in several comments on the scheme and the elements it contains (Appendix B). Two objections have been received, one for each of the proposed zebra crossings, from residents whose frontage would directly be affected (Appendix C). These objections cited concerns about the specific location of these crossings and potential safety implications, potential for anti-social type behaviour, the loss of on-street parking capacity and their perceived negative impact on property values. The proposed zebra crossing located between Cranworth Road and Oxford Street would be sited in the only suitable space without affecting driveway accesses. This section of Doncaster Road is a regular crossing point for school children walking between Clifton Comprehensive School Campuses. The proposed zebra crossing outside East Dene Junior and Infant School would also be located where it will have greatest benefit. More pedestrians cross Doncaster Road in the section outside the school than in the section outside East Dene Social Club. If the crossing were to be placed further east or west of the proposed site it would likely be less well used as pedestrians would not walk out of their way to use it and may cross away from the controlled crossing.

On street parking would be prohibited in the vicinity of the zebra crossing by means of the controlled zone (denoted by zig zag road markings). This would remove the opportunity for residents (and school related traffic) to park on street. However, all affected properties have off street parking available. Both of the proposed zebra crossings are in front of multiple properties but we have only received objections from one at each location. The scheme will affect those households with more than two or three vehicles who currently utilise the road to park their additional vehicles. However, the ultimate purpose for the highway is the free and safe movement of people either by motorised means or not. This scheme would deliver improved non motorised accessibility and potentially have a traffic calming aspect through the reduced carriageway widths and amended road layouts.

8. Finance

The cost for the scheme has been estimated at £250,000 (including both fees and works cost). Funding is currently available from the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2011-2012. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund has allocated a £68,000 contribution to this scheme in 2011-12.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Without the zebra crossings the proposed scheme would not maximise the benefit in accessibility terms for pedestrians and the disabled or infirm.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The provision of accessibility improvements which include all of the elements described would be in line with the objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan

11. Background Papers and Consultation

28 October 2008 Report to Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services - Proposed Accessibility Improvements. Doncaster Road, St Ann's to East Dene (minute 124 refers)

Oct/Nov 2011 Consultation with Council Ward Members and Statutory consultees.

Nov 2011 Consultation and information with residents and affected frontages.

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