

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	2nd September 2013
3.	Title:	Proposed Improvements to A6021 Hollowgate/A618 Moorgate Road junction
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of a proposal to introduce a pedestrian crossing stage in the A6021 Hollowgate/A618 Moorgate Road junction and to report receipt of an objection to an associated proposed prohibited right turn.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended Cabinet Member resolve that:

- i) The objection to the proposed scheme be not acceded to;
- ii) Approval be given for detailed design work to be undertaken in relation to this proposed scheme, as shown on drawing number 126/17/TT239 and for the scheme to be implemented in the 2013/2014 financial year.

7. Proposals and Details

It is proposed to make improvements to the traffic signal controlled junction of A618 Moorgate Road/A6021 Alma Road/A6021 Hollowgate/Moorgate Road in Rotherham town centre. These improvements would consist of

- Adding a controlled pedestrian crossing to the Alma Road arm of the junction. Currently this junction has no controlled pedestrian crossing facilities and crossing here is difficult due to the differing traffic movements. The crossing would help pedestrians walk from the Moorgate area into the town centre. This route is particularly well used by pupils walking to/from Thomas Rotherham College to the town centre. The location meets the requirements for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing.
- Replacing end of life traffic signal equipment at the junction. The existing traffic signal equipment is coming to the end of its life and needs replacement or refurbishment.
- Changes to the staging arrangement to allow the pedestrian crossing stage to be incorporated. The way the junction works will change slightly and it is proposed to prohibit the right turn from A6021 Hollowgate into Moorgate Road. It is necessary to prohibit this turn to allow the junction to work within capacity. There is a convenient alternative route for the 100 or so vehicles a day which make this turn via Wellgate and Mansfield Road.
- Installation of a pedestrian island on A618 Moorgate Road, close to Gerard Road, to make it easier for pedestrians from the Gerard Road area to access the new pedestrian crossing in the improved junction.

The scheme layout is shown on drawing number 126/17/TT239 attached as Appendix A.

Consultation into the proposal was carried out with Statutory Bodies and Ward Members in June 2013. Two responses were received, one from South Yorkshire Police and one from Stagecoach East Midlands.

South Yorkshire Police have objected to the prohibited right turn from Hollowgate into Moorgate Road. The reason for their objection is *“that as there is no further engineering proposed in this scheme, except for a ‘no right turn’ sign to discourage vehicles from turning right, there is little likelihood of compliance by drivers, and we feel that new scheme’s should be self enforcing to alleviate the need for police enforcement. We cannot therefore support this proposal at this time in its current format”*.

Response: The prohibited right turn is required to make the junction work efficiently. It is considered that as so few vehicles a day make this turn and as there is an easy alternative route that abuse of this prohibited turn would be very infrequent. However any enforcement issues which arise following implementation could be addressed when Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 is enacted.

Stagecoach East Midlands commented that if the right turn from Hollowgate into Moorgate Road was prohibited there would be no alternative route for buses into the town centre should Wellgate/Mansfield Road be blocked for any reason. **Response:** In the unlikely event of Wellgate/Mansfield Road being blocked temporary traffic management measures would be put in place to ensure that the bus service could still access the town centre.

Consultation was also carried out with 161 residents and local businesses. Two responses were received in support of the proposal and one asking for more information, with no objections being made.

8. Finance

The recommended scheme is expected to cost £275,000 and funding is available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2013/2014.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to refurbish the junction may lead to equipment failure with the potential to cause increased delay and congestion at the junction.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposal contributes towards Rotherham Core Objectives to create safe and healthy communities by encouraging people to walk (More people are physically active and have a health way of life) and Improving the environment (More people are cycling, walking and using public transport).

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Drawing number 126/17/TT239 attached as Appendix A.

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