

Decision Record – Proposed Toucan Crossing – Dunchurch Road (Overslade Lane Junction), Rugby

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Jeff Clarke Transport and Planning
Date of Decision (not before 14 December 2018)	14/12/2018

Decision Taken
That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves the installation of a Toucan crossing on Dunchurch Road (near Overslade Lane junction), Rugby, as consulted upon and pursuant to Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, conditional upon the necessary Highways Act 1980, Section 278 agreement being in place, along with the additional provision of an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing / refuge outside No.184 Dunchurch Road all as shown on the plan provided in Appendix B.

Reasons for Decisions
Approval is required of the Portfolio Holder where a highway scheme has attracted objections.

Background Information
<p>A planning application (RBC/16CC016) was submitted to the County Council for a redevelopment of the Rokeby School site to accommodate a Free School with a total intake of 1470 pupils. The Developer is the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Warwickshire County Council was a joint applicant by virtue of being the Local Education Authority and landowner of the school site. Planning permission was granted on 21 December 2017 by Regulatory Committee. The permitted scheme requires the Developer to undertake a package of improvements to the surrounding highway network including the installation of a Toucan crossing on the A426 Dunchurch Road in proximity to the Overslade Lane junction, Rugby, to cater for the anticipated additional pedestrian and cyclist demand across Dunchurch Road in order to access Rokeby School.</p> <p>Where a highway scheme is considered and approved as part of the planning process, the courts have made it clear that the highway / traffic authority is expected to co-operate in its implementation unless some exceptional or changed circumstances call for a different approach. The planning permission could be amended to remove the need for the Toucan crossing, but this would require a further planning application by the developer and the agreement of Regulatory Committee (which would be guided, but not bound by, the advice of the highway / traffic authority).</p> <p>The County Council intends to enter into a Section 278 agreement with the Developer to undertake the works. Under that agreement the cost of the Toucan crossing and associated works will be fully funded by the Developer.</p> <p>Toucan crossings contribute to an integrated pedestrian and cycling network and help to reduce conflict between traffic and pedestrians / cyclists, encouraging feelings of safety. These factors are important in encouraging walking within a community. The design of these facilities takes into account the needs of people with physical and sensory disabilities to ensure equality of opportunity and access.</p> <p>The crossing facility will also be of benefit to the wider local community and to other local</p>

schools in the immediate area, including Harris C of E Academy School which is in close proximity to the Dunchurch Road / Overslade Lane junction. Large numbers of Harris Academy pupils are observed to cross Dunchurch Road near Overslade Lane at school opening and closing times.

Proposed Scheme

The site of the proposed Toucan crossing is located on Dunchurch Road, directly to the south of the Overslade Lane junction, as indicated on the plan in **Appendix A**. Dunchurch Road is a primary route into Rugby town centre and has significant traffic flows at peak times. Dunchurch Road is a bus route and is subject to a 30mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting and frontage development, the speed limit changes to 40mph approximately 30 metres south of the Overslade Lane junction. The scheme includes a proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit to a point approximately 100m south of the junction and to include the immediate approach to the crossing, although this will be subject to the outcome of further statutory consultation planned to be carried out within the next 3 months.

The proposed location was identified at planning stage considering the layout of the road, existing features and constraints in the immediate vicinity including; the side road junction with Overslade Lane which incorporates a right turn lane for southbound traffic entering Overslade Lane, a bus stop / layby, on and off carriageway cycle routes and pedestrian footway links. The area is predominantly residential, with minimal frontage directly onto this section of Dunchurch Road. Harris Academy School is located directly to the northwest of the Overslade Lane junction. There are footway / bridleway links to an existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing consisting of a central pedestrian refuge/island with dropped kerbs across Dunchurch Road, the crossing is sited immediately to the north of the Overslade Lane junction and is observed to be well used by school pupils of Harris Academy.

On an interim basis and as a condition of a separate planning permission granted on 08 June 2018 (ref: RBC/18CC003) for temporary additional classroom accommodation on Rokeby school site, a temporary portable signal controlled crossing has been installed. The crossing is south of Overslade Lane junction, in the location identified for the permanent crossing. The temporary crossing has been in place from the start of the 2018/19 school year. This facility is required to be maintained until such time that the new permanent crossing is available for use. The Developer is funding all associated costs.

Financial Implications

The County Council intends to enter into a Section 278 agreement with the Developer to undertake the works. Under that agreement the costs will be fully funded by the Developer.

Report Author	Shirley Reynolds
Head of Service	Mark Ryder
Joint Managing Director	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jeff Clarke

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered
Link to published proposed decision report: https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4406/Committee/593/Default.aspx

List of Background Papers
None

Members and officers consulted or informed
<p>Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Clarke Corporate Board Legal – Ian Marriott, Jane Pollard Finance – Liz Firmstone, Virginia Rennie Equality – Keira Rounsley Democratic Services – Paul Williams</p> <p>The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:</p> <p>Local Members: Cllr Kaur – Bilton and Hillside Cllr O'Rourke – New Bilton and Overslade</p> <p>Other Members: Cllr Cockburn, Cllr Fradgley, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Shilton</p>