

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Rugby Area Committee
Date of Committee	23rd November 2006
Report Title	Urban Quality Bus Corridor: Lower Hillmorton – Rugby Town Centre
Summary	<p>In 2007/8, the County Council plans to undertake a programme of enhancement works to on-street bus infrastructure along the Lower Hillmorton – Rugby Town Centre bus corridor.</p> <p>Service 1, operated on a commercial basis by Stagecoach is the primary bus service utilising the corridor. In partnership with the bus infrastructure improvement works, Stagecoach plan to increase the frequency of Service 1 to every 15 minutes. However, the proposed improvement to the bus service is undeliverable without the following infrastructure works being implemented in the bus corridor:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remedial works to the traffic calming measures in Lower Hillmorton Road; and 2. Bus accessibility works to the High Street at the junction with Deerings Road. <p>This report seeks the support of the Area Committee to the undertaking of a public consultation on the proposed infrastructure works.</p>
For further information please contact	<p>Nigel Whyte Transport Planning Unit Tel. 01926 735674 nigelwhyte@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	Yes/No
Background Papers	Warwickshire Final Local Transport Plan 2006: Annex 2 – Bus Strategy.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-*Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Councillor R Dodd
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor J Roodhouse - I welcome this as long as we can have full consultation with local residents and inform them about what is proposed in plenty of time to ensure we have a quality bus route

Other Elected Members Councillor K Browne) for information
Councillor Mrs E Goode)
Councillor Mrs J Lea)

Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott – comments noted

Finance

Other Chief Officers

District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Further consideration by this Committee To be brought before the 25th January meeting following completion of the consultation
Details to be specified

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Rugby Area Committee - 23rd November 2006

Urban Quality Bus Corridor: Lower Hillmorton – Rugby Town Centre

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That Area Committee supports the undertaking of a public consultation on the proposed minor remedial works to the traffic calming measures on Lower Hillmorton Road and alterations to the High Street at the junction with Deerings Road, the results of which will be brought before the next Area Committee meeting for further consideration.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2006 (LTP) identifies Quality Bus Corridors (QBCs) as a key measure in delivering the local transport objectives of increasing bus patronage, improving accessibility and reducing social exclusion. The County Council commits in the LTP that, by 2011, it will deliver eight QBC's. The LTP specifies that one of these will be the Lower Hillmorton - Rugby Town Centre corridor. The LTP was endorsed by the County Council in March 2006. The scheme will be similar to the enhancements which were made during the first Local Transport Plan period to Service 4 in Rugby.
- 1.2 The proposed works are planned to be implemented during 2007/8 financial year. In partnership with the bus infrastructure enhancement works, Stagecoach, the primary commercial bus operator on the corridor, intend to increase the frequency of Service 1 to every 15 minutes. However, Stagecoach view that it is unable to justify in financial and operational terms the improvement to service frequency unless certain works are undertaken on specific Highway infrastructure along the bus corridor:-
 - (i) Minor remedial works to the traffic calming measures on Lower Hillmorton Road.
 - (ii) Alterations to the High Street at the junction with Deerings Road to enable easier access by buses.

- 1.3 If these works are not undertaken, it is unlikely that Stagecoach will make any improvements to Service 1 in the foreseeable future. If this is the case, it is difficult for the County Council to commit any funding towards the Urban Quality Bus Corridor (UQBC), as funding from both parties is required to deliver the full benefit of the scheme in terms of delivering a step-change in bus service and infrastructure in this corridor.
- 1.4 Discussions with Stagecoach are ongoing at the time of writing this report and a verbal update on those discussions will be given at the meeting.

2. Minor Remedial Works to the Traffic Calming Measures on Lower Hillmorton Road

- 2.1 The County Council's Road Safety Engineering team have confirmed that minor remedial works can be conducted to the traffic calming measures on Lower Hillmorton Road without the outcome resulting in increasing the speed of cars and vans etc when negotiating the speed tables. The works will consist of reducing the ramp lengths to a 1:15 gradient on each speed table. This would also enable the speed tables to be more easily negotiated by emergency vehicles.

3. Alterations to the High Street at Junction with Deerings Road

- 3.1 Presently, there is a tree in a circular grass area located in the middle of the High Street, which prevents buses from using the junction. The proposed alteration works will focus on reducing the area of grass verge on one side of the High Street to allow room for buses to turn. The tree will not be affected by these works.

4. Impact on Local People and the Need for Consultation

- 4.1 In order to gauge the level of public support or opposition to the proposed works it is proposed to undertake a public consultation. This would include not only local residents but also other interested parties who the County Council would normally consult on bus infrastructure, road safety and traffic management proposals. The liaison will consist of a postal consultation and an exhibition to be undertaken during December 2006, the results of which will be reported to the next Area Committee meeting on the 25th January 2007.

4.2

List of Consultees	
Local County Councillors	Rugby Borough Council
Warwickshire Police	Local Residents

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Rugby Area Committee is asked to support the undertaking of a public consultation on the proposed minor remedial works to the traffic calming measures on Lower Hillmorton Road and alterations to the High Street at the junction with Deerings Road in Hillmorton.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

3rd November 2006