

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 24th May 2007

**Report Title** Brownsover to The Avon Valley School - Cycle Route

**Summary** It is proposed to construct a cycle route to link Brownsover to The Avon Valley School as part of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative. The scheme includes the upgrading of two pedestrian crossings and the installation of a new toucan crossing. This report gives the results of public consultation on the scheme and seeks approval for the conversion of various footways to shared use footway/cycleways.

**For further information please contact** Lynn Harding  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** Location Plans

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  Councillor Ms K King - supports the recommendation and especially endorses the need for the proposed road safety audit, particularly at the Tesco roundabout crossing, as it is a very dangerous, wide and busy junction.  
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor J Wells -

Other Elected Members  .....

Cabinet Member  .....  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive  .....

- Legal  I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance  C Holden – comments noted.
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  Rugby Borough Council.
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  Warwickshire Police.
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Headteachers of local schools.  
Local residents.

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

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Rugby Area Committee - 24th May 2007

### Brownsover to The Avon Valley School - Cycle Route

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

##### Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be given to the proposed scheme, including the conversion of various lengths of footway into shared use footway/cycleways.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Safer Routes to Schools initiative aims to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school rather than travel by car by making their route to school safe and convenient.
- 1.2 Funding has been made available from the Capital Programme to construct a cycle route between Brownsover and The Avon Valley School, Newbold Road, Rugby, as part of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative. The route follows the line of A426 Leicester Road and is entirely off-road, using existing stretches of cycle route or improved footway as appropriate.
- 1.3 As Highway Authority, the County Council is able to effect changes to footways and cycle tracks using statutory powers under Section 64 and 65 of the Highways Act 1980, after obtaining a resolution from the relevant Area Committee.
- 1.4 This report seeks the approval of Committee to proceed with the scheme as shown in **Appendix A** at an estimated total cost of £322,000, including the conversion of various lengths of footway to shared use footway/cycleways.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Avon Valley School is a foundation secondary school with a current roll of about 1100 pupils. It is the only secondary school in north Rugby and has a wide catchment area, with 35% of pupils living in Brownsover.
- 2.2 One of the aims stated in Avon Valley School's Travel Plan, written in 2005, is "to encourage more walking and cycling to school and improve children's health and fitness through increased walking and cycling".

- 2.3 8% of pupils already cycle to school and there is the potential for many more to do so. A survey carried out by pupils in 2005 revealed that 19% would prefer to cycle if they could choose how to travel to school and that the main barrier to cycling was the lack of safe cycle routes.

### **3. Outline of Proposed Scheme**

- 3.1 The proposed route (as illustrated in **Appendix A**) can be summarised as follows:-

- (a) A new toucan crossing on Boughton Road.
  - (b) Widening of existing footway on the eastern side of A426 Leicester Road to provide a shared use path.
  - (c) Informal crossing point at the access to the Tesco superstore.
  - (d) Upgrade existing puffin crossing on A426 to a toucan crossing.
  - (e) Widen existing footway on the western side of A426 Leicester Road to provide a shared use path, joining the existing length of cycle route.
  - (f) Route joins the Rugby Western Relief Road cycleway in the vicinity of the Avon Mill roundabout.
  - (g) Short length of new shared use path across open space.
  - (h) Upgrade existing puffin crossing on Newbold Road to a toucan crossing.
- 3.2 At the northern end of the route Rugby Borough Council will fund and construct a joint footpath and cyclepath across the open space at Park End in Brownsover. (A worn path across the grass shows that many pedestrians already use this route). This land is owned by the Borough Council and planning permission for this link has already been obtained.
- 3.3 It may be possible to continue the route through Brownsover to link to the existing cycle route on Newton Manor Lane. A preliminary investigation showed this to be a relatively costly addition to the current proposal, but it could be considered as a separate scheme in the future, should funding be available.

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation was carried out in September and October 2006, with leaflets detailing the scheme and inviting comments being delivered to houses and business premises along the route. Public exhibitions were also held at The Avon Valley School and Christ Church in Brownsover and attendees were again invited to comment on the proposals.
- 4.2 There was a low but positive response to the consultation, with more than 80% of respondents in favour of the proposals. Warwickshire Police and The Avon Valley School also expressed their support for the scheme.

- 4.3 Originally the route took cyclists through the Glebe Estate but objections were received from residents concerned about possible conflict between cyclists and car drivers. However, in view of the approaching construction of the Rugby Western Relief Road, this section of the cycle route has been removed from the scheme and the route will utilise part of the cycleway adjacent to the Relief Road.
- 4.4 Concern was also expressed about the safety of the informal crossing of the access road to the Tesco superstore. An independent Road Safety Audit will be carried out following detailed design to ensure that the safety of all road users is not compromised.
- 4.5 A separate consultation was carried out regarding the proposed toucan crossing on Boughton Road and no adverse comments were received.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 There is considerable potential for increasing the number of pupils cycling to The Avon Valley School and this will be assisted by the creation of a safe and direct cycle route between Brownsover and the school.
- 5.2 The cycle route will benefit not only school pupils, as it will be available for the wider community and will link to other long-distance routes, with further scope for a future extension of the cycle network in Rugby.

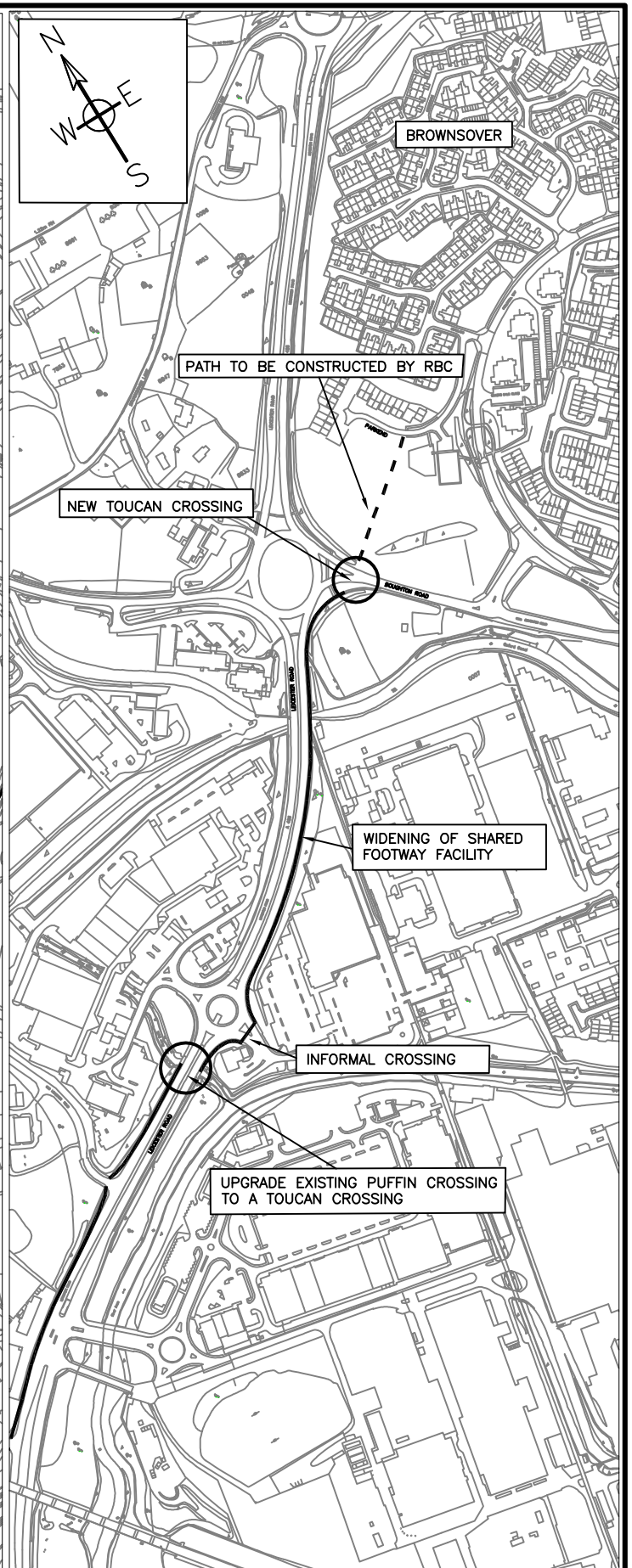
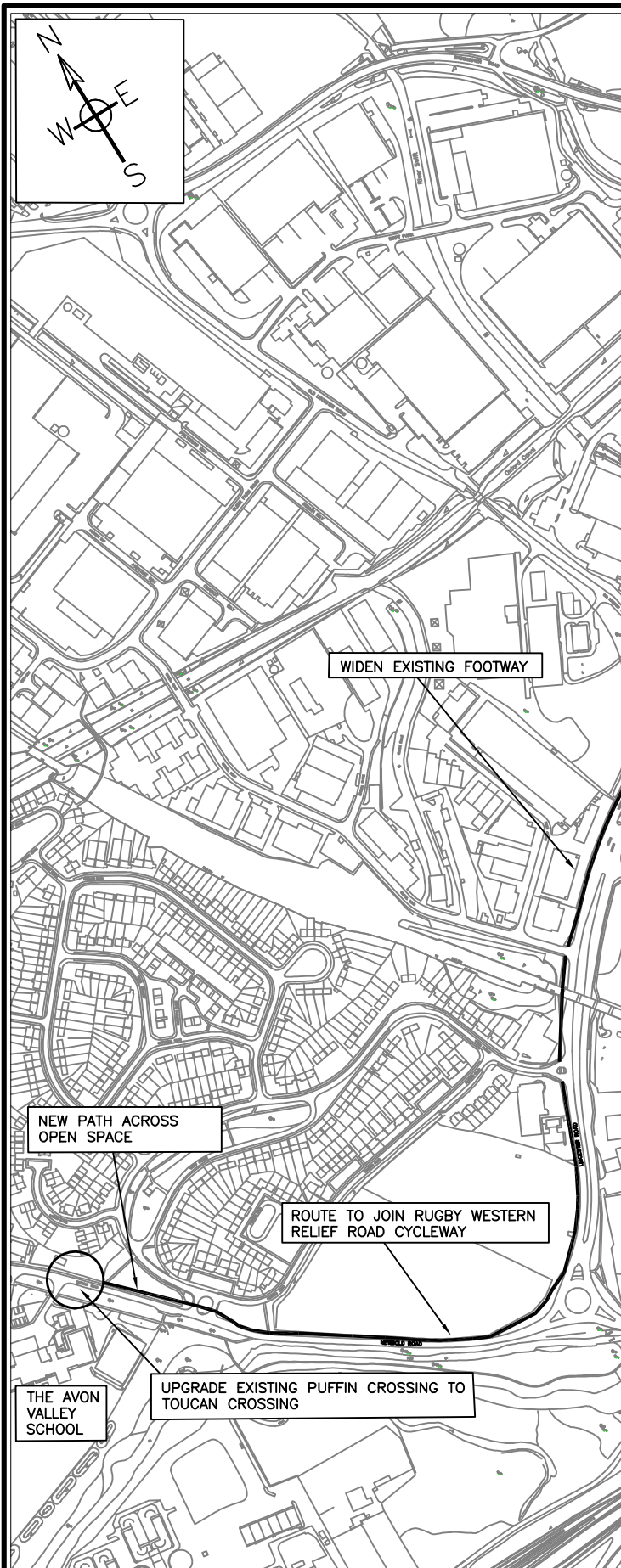
## **6. Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 The provision of the cycle route adjacent to A426 Leicester Road will make it easier and safer for pupils to cycle to school rather than travel by car. This will result in a reduction in traffic congestion and pollution in the vicinity of the school and will contribute to an improvement in pupils' health and fitness.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy  
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1st May 2007

# APPENDIX A



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Scale 1: NTS


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## BROWNSOVER TO THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL CYCLE ROUTE

Rugby Area Committee – 24th May 2007


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