

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Preston North West; and
Preston West

Proposed Junction Improvements – Blackpool Road/Lea Road Preston

Contact for further information:

Janet Wilson, (01772) 538647, Commissioning Manager (Live Well),
janet.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report requests approval to provide crossing facilities on all four arms of the Blackpool Road/Lea Road junction in Preston at an estimated cost of £60,000. It is proposed that the improvement is funded by S106 funding of £50,000 and the remaining estimated cost of £10,000 be funded from the unallocated 2015/16 Transport block Cycling Programme.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to:

- (i) Approve that crossing facilities are provided on all four arms of the Blackpool Road/Lea Road junction in Preston at an estimated cost of £60,000;
- (ii) Approve that the improvements are funded as follows;
 - £50,000 from the remaining funding from the S106 Agreement between Preston City Council and the University of Central Lancashire.
 - £10,000 from the unallocated 2015/16 Transport block Cycling Programme.

Background and Advice

Lancashire County Council received the sum of £80,000 from Preston City Council through a Section 106 agreement with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) following the development of Westleigh House on Lea Road. The funding was secured for the improvement of pedestrian and cycling facilities and the improvement of the public transport network and associated infrastructure within the area surrounding the development.

The funding was drawn down from Preston City Council to enable scheme proposals to be developed. Two schemes were identified to improve the corridor between Blackpool Road and Westleigh House. The schemes comprised enhanced signing, lining and the installation of an interactive message sign at Lea Road between Ainsdale Drive and Westleigh and the installation of flat top road humps positioned either side of the Guild Wheel crossing near Ainsdale Drive. During this period the County Council also introduced sign only 20mph schemes and a large section of Lea Road was subject to 20mph. The schemes described above were revised to reflect this.

It was acknowledged that there would be funding remaining and other schemes would be considered once the final costs for the schemes described above were established. Work on the two approved schemes has now been completed leaving an unallocated amount of £50,000.

It was recognised that upgrades to Lea Road/Blackpool Road signal junction would be required in response to traffic volumes in the vicinity and that any remaining S106 funding could be used to provide crossing facilities at this junction. The most appropriate nature of the crossing facilities (puffin or toucan crossings) suitable for each arm of the junction will be determined once a detailed design has been completed.

Consultations

The Lea Road/Blackpool Road junction sits within both Preston North West and Preston West divisions. The County Councillors for these divisions have been made aware of the funding received and were asked to consider further improvements in the area that would benefit the local communities. Both agreed that improvements at Blackpool Road/Lea Road junction should be prioritised.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management.

If this scheme is not progressed there is a risk that pedestrians and cyclists in the area will not be afforded suitable facilities as traffic flows increase. Detail design will determine whether puffin or toucan facilities are appropriate on each arm of the junction.

Financial

The proposed improvements are estimated to cost £60,000. It is proposed that they are funded by the remaining £50,000 of available S106 funding that has previously been received from Preston City Council. It is proposed that the remaining £10,000 be funded from the unallocated 2015/16 Transport block Cycling Programme.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A