

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Director of Corporate Commissioning
Date: 23 January 2016

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Chorley North

Proposed Zebra Crossing, Runshaw Lane, Euxton
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

It is proposed to construct a zebra crossing on Runshaw Lane, Euxton, west of St Mary's Gate, providing a link between the North and South side of Runshaw Lane, following the pedestrian desire line.

Following statutory advertisement of the crossing, one objection was received which is summarised in this report.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the installation of a zebra crossing on Runshaw Lane, west of St Mary's Gate as shown on the plan at Appendix 'A' and in the Notice of Proposal at Appendix 'B'.

Background and Advice

It is proposed to construct a zebra crossing on Runshaw Lane, Euxton, west of St Mary's Gate. The location was determined by the Local Safety Team following analysis of accident records and as a result of strong demand from local residents.

The provision of a zebra crossing will provide a link from the north to the south side of Runshaw Lane thus allowing for safer pedestrian movements along the desire line. In order to meet current standards, the existing footway (north side of Runshaw Lane) will need building out westwards to provide a minimum 5 metre clearance between the crossing and side road (to the retail units). This will also result in the footway on the west and north of the side road being reduced to ensure that the junction is of an appropriate width to cater for heavy goods vehicles. Uncontrolled crossing points will be provided for pedestrians to cross to the retail units as shown in the plan at Appendix 'A'.

It should be noted that funding for a second zebra crossing was approved on 7 October 2016 by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools on Runshaw Lane, adjacent to Primrose Hill Road. This crossing is to be constructed under the planning conditions, approved by the Development Control Committee on 25 November 2015, associated with the extension of Primrose Hill Primary School. During the consultation period it became clear that there was confusion locally as to whether both crossings would be constructed. The intention is for both crossings to be built concurrently during the 2017 school summer holidays, thus minimising the impact on the community and providing efficiency in working practices.

Consultations

A public consultation was carried out between 6 September 2016 and 2 November 2016. The following were consulted as part of this process:

- Local County Councillor for the electoral division affected;
- Ward Councillors;
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport;
- Euxton Parish Council;
- Lancashire Constabulary;
- Local residents;
- LCC's Abnormal Loads Team;
- LCC's School's crossing Patrol Officer;

Reponses

As part of the consultation, the scheme received two supportive responses, one of no comment and one objection.

Responses supporting the scheme have been received from Euxton Parish Council and the County Councillor for Chorley North, County Councillor Mark Perks.

The points raised by the objector, a local resident, are summarised below.

Summary of objection:

1. Both crossings on Runshaw Lane should be pedestrian controlled crossings where both drivers and pedestrians have clear visibility of the signals to indicate whether or not it is safe to proceed.

In response, the consultation period for the second zebra, adjacent to Primrose Hill has ended, with no objections received and additional funding has been approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools and therefore objections cannot be accepted. A zebra crossing is considered appropriate at the proposed location as it will improve pedestrian safety by providing a controlled crossing point, where drivers must give way once a pedestrian has moved onto the crossing. A signal controlled pedestrian crossing would be inappropriate due to the close proximity to the A49, Euxton Lane signalised junction. Furthermore, as the current footway widths are limited a zebra crossing will reduce the likelihood of the footway being blocked by waiting pedestrians as there is no delay.

2. The crossing should be moved westwards, away from the Wigan Rd junction due to peak time traffic and the possibility of stopped traffic encroaching into the Wigan Rd junction

In response, the location was determined by the pedestrian desire line. Moving the crossing west would discourage pedestrians from using the crossing. The area will be monitored following installation of the zebra, however it is anticipated that the crossing will not impede the junction.

3. It is common for vehicles to stop at the roadside opposite the retail units, limiting the free movement of traffic, suggest the length of restriction be extended.

In response, it is an offence to park a vehicle on the zebra crossing or on the associated zigzag road markings, therefore stopping vehicles at the location of the crossing should be removed. Site observations have not revealed issues with stopped/parked vehicles in this location however, the area will be monitored.

4. Queuing traffic stops across the junction at Cedar Avenue, suggest installing a box junction at this location.

As previously stated, the area will be monitored once the zebra is installed however, it is not anticipated that the existing traffic issues will be affected.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The crossing would improve the safety on Runshaw Lane. If the proposed zebra crossing is not constructed, pedestrians will continue to cross Runshaw Lane in the vicinity of the shops, and the risk of collisions between motorist and pedestrians will remain. The purpose of the zebra is to provide a controlled crossing along the pedestrian desire line, thus reducing danger to pedestrians and other vulnerable users.

Financial

The estimated cost of the proposals is £47,825 and will be funded from the 2015/16 Road Safety Programme Project ID 3450.

Legal

The power to establish zebra crossings is under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A