

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 November 2017

### Report of the Head of Service Asset Management

**Part I**

Electoral Divisions affected:  
All

### Vehicle Crossing Code of Practice

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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#### Executive Summary

The County Council encourages all occupiers of residential premises, wherever possible, to garage or park their vehicles off the road. Where they need to cross a kerb, verge or footway in a motor vehicle to reach their property and the location is acceptable they need to do so via the use of an approved vehicular crossing.

There are instances of residents using unauthorised vehicular crossings to access property. The use of such crossings may be a source of danger and cause damage to the publically maintainable footways, utility equipment and result in claims for trips and additional maintenance costs.

The proposed Code of Practice (CoP) set out at Appendix 'A' outlines procedures for residents to follow and factors to consider when applying for the installation of an approved crossing. The CoP also provides guidance to Highway Services about how to stop the use of unauthorised crossings and either achieve an approved one or, in unacceptable locations to take enforcement action.

#### Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the Vehicle Crossing Code of Practice as set out at Appendix 'A'.

#### Background and Advice

This Code of Practice has been drafted with reference to Section 184 of the Highways Act 1980 which gives the County Council powers, as Highway Authority, to approve the location and design of vehicle crossings to be constructed at the applicant's expense following an application, we will insist on a crossing being built to specification following a notice.

The County Council encourages all occupiers of residential premises, wherever possible, to garage or park their vehicles off the road. Where they need to cross a kerb, verge or footway in a motor vehicle to reach their property, and the location is acceptable to the highway authority, the crossing point, also referred to as a 'vehicular crossing' or 'dropped kerb', must have been approved by the county council as local Highway Authority.

Failure to use an approved crossing point to access property across a kerb, verge or footway in a motor vehicle can be a source of danger especially if it is at an unacceptable location and even at a location which would be acceptable causes damages the footway surface, verges or kerbstones and may result in claims for personal loss or injury.

This Code of Practice gives advice to members of the public about the processes and factors to consider when applying for a vehicle crossing and provides guidance to Highway Services about the steps and procedures to be followed to stop unauthorised vehicle crossings from being used. It is anticipated that this Code of Practice will:

- Reduce the number of unauthorised crossing points in Lancashire and create a more equitable situation for all.
- Limit the amount of pavement damage caused by vehicles using unauthorised vehicle crossing points across Lancashire.
- Reduce the cost to the taxpayer of funding associated repairs.
- Control who is allowed to construct a vehicle crossing and make sure all future crossings are built to the correct specification or altered correctly.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

## **Financial**

There are no cost implications arising from this CoP which has been drafted with reference to Section 184 of the Highways Act 1980. This CoP should lead to more activity with regards enforcement relating to stopping unauthorised crossings and the recovery of costs to reinstate damage caused by the use of unauthorised crossings.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A