

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 14 September 2017

Report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Fylde East

Proposed Shared Use Cycle Track and Toucan Crossing - Blackpool Road, Kirkham (Junction with Ribby Road and Kirkham Bypass)

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report recommends a change of use regarding the present footway on the A583 Blackpool Road, west of its junction with the Kirkham Bypass roundabout, to a shared-use cycle track and the installation of a toucan crossing as part of Section 278 highway improvements. The improvements are required to fulfil the planning conditions relating to a housing development.

The report also summarises the results of the public consultation and advertising of the proposed scheme.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the removal of footway and the installation of a proposed 3m wide shared use cycle track and toucan crossing, located at the roundabout junction of the A583 and A585, where the southern end of the Kirkham and Wesham bypass meets Blackpool Road (detailed at Appendix 'A').
- (ii) Approve that the S278 funding for this scheme, estimated at £235,000, be added to the 2017/18 Highways Block of the capital programme as it is envisaged that this funding will be required in 2017/18.

Background and Advice

As part of a large housing development west of Blackpool Road/Kirkham Bypass roundabout, planning conditions were put in place under a Section 278 Agreement to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility in the vicinity.

The proposed scheme to address these planning conditions includes the removal of footways and the construction of a 3m wide shared use cycle track over which the public have right of way both on foot and pedal cycle. This would extend from the housing development west of Blackpool Road/Kirkham Bypass roundabout to the east side of the roundabout junction. The scheme also includes a 'toucan' signal controlled crossing at the A585 arm of the A583 roundabout to allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross safely. The location and extents of these measures are shown on the general arrangement plan at Appendix 'A'.

Planning permission was granted for the scheme in November 2013.

Design work and formal consultation was carried out in 2015, however further progress was then deferred by the developer until June 2017.

The proposed scheme has undergone a Stage 2 Safety Audit.

Consultations

During October 2015, a public consultation was carried out concerning the proposed toucan crossing. It was also formally advertised on site. The layout of the proposed crossing is detailed at Appendix 'A'.

Lancashire Constabulary has made no objection to the proposals.

The divisional County Councillor raised two objections:-

(i) The use of the new Toucan crossing would exacerbate traffic congestion in the area during peak travel times.

(ii) That the members of the Development Control Committee at Fylde were advised that the County Council would not approve of a crossing on an A road in Little Eccleston as it was not County policy to install crossings on A roads. The question was asked that if this was the case, why was this proposal being put forward?

Response

The Toucan crossing was established as a requirement for the new housing development by the local planning authority following County Council highway advice. The objection on congestion grounds is noted, however the crossing will only activate when there is a demand by cyclists or pedestrians and it is not envisaged this would cause any significant impact on traffic movements in the area, even at peak times.

The County Council does not have a policy which indicates that crossings of this type should not be installed on 'A' roads as each crossing is individually assessed taking into account the local circumstances.

The proposal has taken into account the Equality Act 2010.

In conclusion, the location proposed for the toucan crossing is considered appropriate having balanced the issues raised by the objector with the need to locate the crossing on a desire line for vulnerable road users who experience difficulty crossing at this location.

The cycle track will mean that highway users on foot and on pedal cycle can safely share the same space and that cycle users will not have to use the carriageway.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Vulnerable road users attempting to cross the A585 Kirkham Bypass will be at less risk if the proposals are implemented.

The shared cycle track will be able to be used safely by highway users on foot and on pedal cycle as the width will be 3 metres which will provide for safe use and meets relevant regulations.

Financial

This scheme will be funded through a Section 278 Agreement which means there is no financial risk to the County Council for the construction and supervision phases of the project. The estimated cost of the scheme is £235,000. The funding will be added to the 2017/18 Highways Block of the capital programme and it is envisaged that this funding will be required in 2017/18. Any additional funding requirements for the proposals will be funded by the developer and added to the capital programme.

Legal

The toucan crossing would be installed under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The legal procedure to convert a footway to a cycle track is under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 to remove the footway, and under Section 65 to construct a cycle track.

Under Section 66 the Highways Authority is under a duty to provide proper and sufficient footways for use on foot only by the made-up carriageways where it is considered necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians.

Such footways can be removed under the Highways Act provision and this may be appropriate where a discrete footway is no longer necessary and a cycle track will provide a safe shared use area for pedestrians.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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