

Report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Date: 24 November 2015

Subject: Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates – Proposed Highway Improvement Scheme

Capital Scheme Number: 32235

Are specific electoral wards affected? If 'yes', name(s) of ward(s): Cross Gates & Whinmoor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity or cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If 'yes', access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

- 1 The Best Council Plan 2013-17 outlines how Leeds City will achieve its ambition to become the Best City in the UK and Leeds City Council the best local authority and according to the Best Council Plan, the success of the Best Council objective: ensuring high quality public services will be partly measured through reduced numbers of people Killed or Seriously Injured on the city's roads.
- 2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the detailed design and implementation of a package of traffic management measures on Austhorpe Road in Cross Gates between the A6120 Station Road and Church Lane and the advertisement of:
 - i) a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Austhorpe Road and the surrounding area;
 - ii) a Movement Order to introduce one-way working on sections of Tranquility, Tranquility Walk and Church Lane;
 - iii) a notice for the implementation of traffic calming measures in accordance with Section 90c of the Highways Act 1980; and
 - iv) a notice for the implementation of a formal pedestrian crossing in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

3. Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates between the A6120 Station Road and Penda's Way has been identified as a Length for Concern and is currently ranked at No.10 in the City Councils 2014 edition of the Lengths for Concern report, with 13 injury accidents comprising 10 slight and 3 serious in the past five years, with the main accident type being pedestrian related accidents. However since the compilation of the 2014 Lengths for Concern report there have been 3 more injury accidents, comprising of 2 slight and 1 fatality, all of which were pedestrian related accidents

4 Recommendations

1.1 The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to:

- i) Note the contents of this report;
- ii) Approve the detailed design and implementation of a package of traffic management measures on Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates between the A6120 Station Road and Church Lane, as shown on attached Drawing No TME/11/1/124/1B, at a total cost of £120,000;
- iii) Give authority to incur expenditure of £120,000, comprising £97,000 works costs, £18,000 staff fee costs and £5,000 legal fee costs, all to be funded from the LTP Transport Policy Capital Programme;
- iv) Give authority to advertise and introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Austhorpe Road and surrounding areas and one-way working on sections of Tranquility, Tranquility Walk and Church Lane as shown on Drawing Nos TME/11/1/124/1C and to advertise a notice under the provisions of Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and 90c of the Highways Act 1980; and
- v) Authorise the City Solicitor to advertise notices under the provisions of Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Section 90c of the Highways Act 1980 and advertise a draft Traffic Regulation Order and a draft Movement Order and if no valid objections are received, to make, seal and implement the Orders as advertised.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the detailed design and implementation of a package of traffic management measures on Austhorpe Road in Cross Gates between the A6120 Station Road and Church Lane as shown on Drawing Nos. TME/11/1/124/1B & 1C, and the advertisement of:

- i) A Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Austhorpe Road and the surrounding area;
- ii) A Movement Order to introduce one-way working on sections of Tranquility, Tranquility Walk and Church Lane;

- iii) A notice for the implementation of traffic calming measures in accordance with Section 90c of the Highways Act 1980; and
- iv) A notice for the implementation of a formal pedestrian crossing in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Austhorpe Road Cross Gates is the main route through the commercial shopping area of Cross Gates running between the A6120 Station Road and Penda's Way/Manston Lane.
- 2.2 The length is predominately commercial in nature with a large pedestrian footfall and well serviced by public transport. There are small areas of residential properties, two public car parks and other amenities served off Austhorpe Road, which leads to high volumes of both residential, non-residential and HGV traffic.
- 2.3 Austhorpe Road, Cross Gates between the A6120 Station Road and Penda's Way has been identified as a Length for Concern and is currently ranked at No.10 in the City Councils 2014 edition of the Lengths for Concern report, with 13 injury accidents comprising 10 slight and 3 serious in the past five years, with the main accident type being pedestrian related accidents. However since the compilation of the 2014 Lengths for Concern report there have been 3 more injury accidents, comprising of 2 slight and 1 fatality, all of which were pedestrian related accidents.
- 2.4 A number of requests have been received for improvement works to be carried out on Austhorpe Road, and since the fatality there have been further requests for improvements, especially for pedestrians.
- 2.5 The initial Highway Improvement scheme was put on hold due to the impending Transpennine Electrification works and the uncertainty of the coal extraction at the Barnbow development site, however these are now no longer a concern and the scheme proposals can be implemented.

3. Main issues

3.1 Design Proposals/Scheme Description

- 3.1.1. As part of the proposed Highway Improvement scheme it is intended to improve the general safety and general layout of Austhorpe Road, thus reducing vehicle speeds and improving both road and pedestrian safety.
- 3.1.2 As part of the traffic management measures it is proposed to:
 - i) Relocating the existing zebra crossings to more suitable locations to improve pedestrian crossing movements, and the conversion of the crossing facility adjacent to Tranquility from a 'zebra' crossing to a traffic signal controlled 'pelican' crossing facility;

- ii) The introduction of a raised junction plateau at the Austhorpe Road/Back Marshall Street junction, to facilitate the relocated pedestrian crossing and reduce vehicle speeds;
- iii) The introduction of a one-way traffic flow on a short section of Tranquility, Tranquility Walk and Church Lane to ease congestion and reduce the vehicle movements onto Austhorpe Road and remove inconsiderate and obstructive parking;
- iv) The widening of the eastern footway on Tranquility and Tranquility Walk to provide a more suitable pedestrian area, to re-enforce the proposed one-way traffic flows and to discourage the indiscriminate parking, loading and unloading that occurs;
- v) The relocation of the city bound bus stop back to a more suitable location and the increase in the number of parking bays on Austhorpe Road adjacent to Cross Gates Centre access;
- vi) The introduction of an informal pedestrian crossing facility adjacent to the Austhorpe Road/Church Lane junction;
- vii) The resurfacing of the existing carriageway and footways along the identified length of Austhorpe Road, to improve the overall appearance of the area; and
- vii) Undertake all ancillary improvement works necessary for the proper implementation of the scheme including drainage, traffic signing, road markings, etc

3.1.3 The total estimated cost of the required highway works is £120,000, comprising £97,000 works costs, £18,000 staff fee costs and £5,000 legal fee costs, all to be funded from the LTP Transport Policy Capital Programme.

4. Programme

4.1 It is anticipated that the proposal will be commenced within the 2015/ 2016 financial year, with completion in April 2016.

5. Corporate considerations

5.1 Consultation and engagement

5.1.1 Ward Members and the Local MP were consulted on the proposals via email on the 27th April 2014, with all being in support of the Highway Improvement measures. The Ward Members have actively promoted the scheme throughout its conception and have attended various site meetings and forums to highlight the benefits for the area.

5.1.2 West Yorkshire Police, WYMAS, West Yorkshire Fire Service and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, were all consulted on the proposals via email on the 27th April 2014, with no adverse comments being received. WYCA did responded

asking that the proposed bus stop clearway be extended due to the frequency of services and this will be included in the detailed design.

- 5.1.3 All local residents and businesses directly affected by the proposals on Austhorpe Road were consulted, via letter drop, in May 2014 and March 2015 as well as the scheme details being presented at the Cross Gates Forum on 5 separate occasions. The Ward Members have also carried out their own letter drop to the local residents and businesses informing them of the proposals.

Various comments, suggestions and concerns were received from local businesses, residents and the Cross Gates Watch Residents association, all of which have been taken into account, addressed and where feasible included in the scheme proposals

- 5.1.4 The Safety Audit Team were consulted on the preliminary scheme proposals on the 9 December 2014 and asked to carry out a Stage 1 Safety Audit. No major issues were raised and the proposals have been changed to address the minor points raised as part of the Stage 1 Audit. A detailed Stage 2 Safety Audit will be requested as part of the detailed design process and any issue raised addressed accordingly.

5.2 Equality and diversity, cohesion and integration

- 5.2.1 A screening document has been prepared (Appendix 1) an independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested.

Positive Impacts;

- i) Reducing the number of injury accidents on the highway network;
- ii) Providing a safer environment for members of the public when visiting the locality, especially shoppers using Cross Gates, children travelling to and from the schools in the area and improving the situation for the residents in the areas adjacent to Austhorpe Road, who currently suffer from the indiscriminate and obstructive parking;
- iii) Benefiting those members of the public who, through infirmity, may have difficulty in keeping out of the way of motor traffic, typically older people, school children and parents;
- iv) Maintaining access to the locality, especially the commercial area of Cross Gates for those members of the public who may have mobility issues by means of providing DDA compliant crossing facilities ; and
- v) Ensuring that the routes for public transport in the locality are accessible and that those with mobility issue can access public transport to enable them to travel to local amenities

Negative Impacts;

- i) Due to the introduction of one way traffic flows and the rationalisation of the parking restrictions, members of the public will no longer be able to access Austhorpe Road from Tranquility and Tranquility Walk and the amount of on street parking may be reduced in the numerous areas with the subsequent problems maybe being displaced to the surrounding streets.

5.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

5.3.1 The proposals contained in the report have no implications for the council constitution.

5.3.2 Environmental Policy; the proposals contained in this report are in accordance with Aims 6 and 7 of the Policy in that the proposals will aid to “reduce the impact of traffic in the city by changes to the road system” and “develop a safe, healthy local environment which provides the best quality of life for Leeds residents.

5.3.3 The proposal contributes to the policies in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-26 as follows:

Transport Assets: P2. Maintain to a suitable and sufficient standard.
Travel Choices: P10. Promote the benefits of active travel.
Connectivity: P18. Improve safety and security
P22. Develop networks and facilities to encourage cycling and walking.

5.3.4 Disabled/Mobility: The provision of a traffic signal controlled pedestrian crossing and level dropped crossings will provide a positive aid to all pedestrians especially disabled and will ease pedestrian movement along and across Austhorpe Road.

5.3.5 LTP Policy Approval: A Design Instruction was issued by Transport Strategy Section dated 14 August 2014. The final costed proposal has been reviewed and agreed as an LTP Integrated Transport scheme.

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 **Full scheme estimate:** The total estimated cost of the required highway works is £120,000, comprising £97,000 works costs, £18,000 staff fee costs and £5,000 legal fee costs, all to be funded from the LTP Transport Policy Capital Programme

5.4.2 Capital Funding and cash flow :

Funding Approval :	Capital Section Reference Number :-						
Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL	TO MARCH	FORECAST				
	£000's	2015 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	0.0						
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL	TO MARCH	FORECAST				
£000's	2015 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019 on £000's	£000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	97.0		56.0	41.0			
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (6)	18.0	3.6	11.4	3.0			
OTHER COSTS (7)	5.0		4.0	1.0			
TOTALS	120.0	3.6	71.4	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL	TO MARCH	FORECAST				
£000's	2015 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019 on £000's	£000's
LCC Supported Borrowing	0.0						
Revenue Contribution	0.0						
Capital Receipt	0.0						
Insurance Receipt	0.0						
Lottery	0.0						
Gifts / Bequests / Trusts	0.0						
European Grant	0.0						
Health Authority	0.0						
School Fundraising	0.0						
Private Sector	0.0						
Section 106 / 278	0.0						
Government Grant- LTP	120.0	3.6	71.4	45.0			
SCE (C)	0.0						
SCE (R)	0.0						
Departmental USB	0.0						
Corporate USB	0.0						
Any Other Income (Specify)	0.0						
Total Funding	120.0	3.6	71.4	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Balance / Shortfall =	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Parent Scheme Number : 99609

Title : Transport Policy LTP Capital Programme

5.5 Legal implications, access to information and call-in

5.5.1 There are no specific Legal implications included within this report, nor is any information contained within the report to be deemed confidential.

5.5.2 The scheme is in the annual programme and is expected to be completed in the 2015-2016 financial year.

5.6 Risk management

5.6.1 There is no risk, over and above those expected when working in the public highway, generated by the proposals contained within this report.

6 Conclusions

6.1 The proposed improvements to Austhorpe Road and the associated Traffic Regulation/Movement Orders (waiting restrictions/one way traffic flows) will help reduce the number and severity of injury accidents whilst also addressing the inconsiderate and obstructive parking problems and providing safer pedestrian and vehicular routes through the main commercial area of Cross Gates and on surrounding streets.

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to:

- i) Note the contents of this report;
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- iv) Give authority to advertise and introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Austhorpe Road and surrounding areas and one-way working on sections of Tranquility, Tranquility Walk and Church Lane as shown on Drawing Nos TME/11/1/124/1C and to advertise a notice under the provisions of Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and 90c of the Highways Act 1980; and
- vi) Authorise the City Solicitor to advertise notices under the provisions of Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Section 90c of the Highways Act 1980 and advertise a draft Traffic Regulation Order and a draft Movement Order and if no valid objections are received, to make, seal and implement the Orders as advertised.

8.0 Background documents¹

8.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Appendix 1

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions. Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: City Services	Service area: Traffic Management
Lead person: Nick Borrás	Contact number: 3951431

1. Title: Austhorpe Road Cross Gates – Proposed Highway Improvement Scheme

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify : Highway Scheme to address Length for Concern

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The proposals aim to predominantly address the injury accident problems on the length for concern of Austhorpe Road in Cross Gates, improve general road safety, reduce the number of injury accidents in the commercial centre of Cross Gates and promote safer roads.

The purposes of the highway improvement proposals are to provide a safer and more attractive commercial area that will attract members of the public to Cross Gates and provide a safer area for the local community. As part of the works it is also proposed to convert one of the existing zebra crossing to a formal traffic signal controlled crossing relocate the city bound bus stop to rationalise the on street parking and introduce one way traffic flows on Tranquility, Tranquility walk and Church Lane to address obstructive, indiscriminate and problematic parking as well as improving the overall Austhorpe Road environment.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		X
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment• Advancing equality of opportunity• Fostering good relations		X

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

Due to the nature of the works and they being road safety and a traffic calming measure on Austhorpe Road, the conversion and relocation of the existing zebra crossings and the revision of the existing parking restrictions, these will benefit the local residents and businesses, by removing indiscriminate and obstructive parking, reducing the likelihood and number of personal

injury accidents and providing a safer and more attractive environment of the local residential and commercial area.

Numerous consultations have been carried out with local Councillors, emergency services, local schools, local residents and local businesses in the areas affected by the works and the general public to make everyone aware of the proposals, the aims of the proposals in terms of improving general road safety and reduce the number of personal injury accidents in the Cross Gates centre area promoting safer roads in the local community.

Various comments, suggestions and concerns were received from local businesses, residents and the Cross Gates Watch Residents association, all of which have been taken into account, addressed and where feasible included in the scheme proposals.

Additional consultation/engagement will take place prior to the works being carried by means of the legal advertisement of the Traffic Regulation and Movement Order both in the local media and on street by means of a public notice.

- **Key findings (think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)**

The implementation of the highway improvement scheme, the introduction of the zebra crossing on Ninelands Lane and the introduction of the various parking restrictions throughout Garforth will provide positive impacts to all road users, especially those with mobility issues, young and old people by;

- Reducing the number of injury accidents on the highway network;
- Providing a safer environment for members of the public when visiting the locality, especially shoppers using Cross Gates, children travelling to and from school and improving the situation for the residents in the areas adjacent to Austhorpe Road, who currently suffer from the indiscriminate and obstructive parking;
- Benefiting those members of the public who, through infirmity, may have difficulty in keeping out of the way of motor traffic, typically older people, school children and parents;
- Maintaining access to the locality, especially the commercial area of Cross Gates for those members of the public who may have mobility issues by means of providing DDA compliant crossing facilities ; and
- Ensuring that the routes for public transport in the locality are accessible and that those with mobility issue can access public transport to enable them to travel to local amenities.

The only negative impact that the scheme proposals may have, is that due to the introduction of One way traffic flows and the rationalisation of the parking restrictions, members of the public will no longer be able to access Austhorpe Road from Tranquility and Tranquility Walk and the amount of on street parking may be reduced in the numerous areas with the subsequent problems maybe being displaced to the surrounding streets.

Whilst the proposals will benefit the local community and the local businesses of Cross Gates there is a possibility that during the legal advertisement of the Traffic Regulation and the Movement Orders, objections could be received from members of the public and even those not local to the area.

- **Actions (think about** how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

The continuous support from local Ward Members, residents and businesses has helped to maintain a positive impact on the local communities and the various road users of the area.

In order to negate the negative impact that the introduction of the one way traffic flows and amendments of the parking restrictions may have and the possible displacement of parking which may occur in areas surrounding the scheme, it is possible that further consideration/action will be required to address these future problems.

5. If you are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you will need to carry out an impact assessment.

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Nicholas Hunt	Traffic Engineering Manager	27 October 2015

7. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

Date screening completed	27 October 2015
Date sent to Equality Team	27 October 2015
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	