

Report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Date: 15 August 2017

Subject: Moortown Communal Area

Capital Scheme Number: 14236 / MOO / OI1

Are specific electoral wards affected? If 'yes', name(s) of ward(s): Moortown	<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. There is currently a plot of land located between the two parades of shops on Harrogate Road at its junction with Allerton Grove (Moortown Corner) which has been identified by the Moortown Ward Members and the Moortown Community Group as an area to be developed and improved.
2. At the present time Allerton Grove is physically closed off by means of a formal closure with concrete bollards which prevents vehicular traffic, but it is felt by the local community to be quite unsightly.
3. This report seeks approval to construct a pedestrianised communal area with benches, planters and a community notice board that can be used by members of the public.
4. This report also seeks approval to alter the Traffic Regulation Order for the point closure to include the proposed area of the works.

Best City Ambition

5. The Best Council Plan 2015-20 outlines how Leeds City will achieve its ambition to become the Best City in the UK and Leeds City Council the best local authority. One objective of the Best Council Plan is supporting communities, which encourages the local community to be more involved in their area. This scheme has been designed in collaboration with the local community group which allows them to

influence decisions on where they live and improve the area for the wider community.

1. Recommendations

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

- i) authorise the detailed design and subsequent implementation of a scheme to introduce a new pedestrianised footway area on Allerton Grove as shown on the attached drawing TM-24-2378-01-03;
- ii) note the proposed cost of the scheme is £22,000 funded by £7,000 from the Moortown Community Group and £15,000 from Councillors Ward Based Initiative monies.
- iii) instruct the City Solicitor to:
 - a) advertise a draft Traffic Regulation Order amending the existing movement order to include the extended point closure; and
 - b) should no valid objections be received, make and seal the order as advertised.

2. Purpose of this report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the alteration of the existing road closure and the construction of a pedestrianised communal area on Allerton Grove between the two parades of shops as shown on drawing TM-24-2378-01-03.

3. Background information

3.1 The Moortown Community Group has been in discussion with Ward Members and Highway Officers for a number of years about the unsightly road closure and the possibility of re-developing the area between the two parades of shops on Harrogate Road in the Moortown Corner area.

3.2 Through consultation with residents and businesses in the area, the Moortown Community Group have received positive feedback on proposals in this area that would improve it for the local community whilst maintaining the closure to vehicular traffic. Meetings with Highway Officers identified some coloured paving and kerbstones that are being stored at the Henshaw Depot, which could be utilised in order to improve the aesthetics of the proposed communal area.

4. Main issues

4.1 Design Proposals/Scheme Description

4.1.1 In order to improve the area it is proposed to alter the existing road closure and introduce a communal area on Allerton Grove. This will be done through the use of paving to improve the aesthetics of the overall area. It is also proposed to introduce

benches, planters and a community notice board, being provided and maintained by the Moortown Community Group.

4.1.2 The total estimated cost of the proposed highway works is £22,000, consisting of £18,000 works costs and £4,000 staff fee costs to be funded partly by the Moortown Community Group (£7,000) and partly from Councillors Ward Based Initiative monies (£15,000).

4.1.3 The existing point closure states that it only covers 2m of Allerton Grove, and therefore it is necessary to alter the Traffic Regulation Order to extend the closure by 8m.

5.0 Programme

5.1 It is anticipated that the proposal will be commenced within the 2017 / 2018 financial year.

6. Corporate considerations

6.1 Consultation and engagement

6.1.1 Ward Members: Ward Members have been part of the regular meetings regarding the design and fully support the changes being proposed.

6.1.2 Emergency Services: The community group liaised with the West Yorkshire Police Crime Reduction Officer to discuss potential issues of creating a communal area with benches as there were concerns it may attract anti-social behaviour. Whilst they did make some recommendations to deter such behaviour (such as lighting and waste bins), they believe that the proposals will enhance the area. The other services and WYCA were not consulted as they road is currently closed and would not affect them.

6.1.3 Residents / Businesses: The Moortown Community Group consulted with those residents and businesses directly affected by the proposals, through letters and personal visits, and found that the response was positive.

6.1.4 Parks: Discussions were held with parks regarding the maintenance of the planters and plants. It was explained that the Moortown Community Group will be responsible for the maintenance of these through their links with Moortown in Bloom. If the group ever disbands it will be their responsibility to have the planters removed, however parks and highways retain the right to remove them if they feel that maintenance is not be undertaken or they are causing a hazard.

6.1.5 Asset Management: The proposals were discussed with Asset Management who were happy with the proposals providing the maintenance issues were clarified. It was explained that highways would look after the footway and paving, whilst the planters, noticeboard and benchers would be looked after by the Moortown Community Group. Asset Management did not approve of the use of coloured surfacing for the footway areas as this would present a maintenance issue, therefore this was removed and the footways would be constructed as standard.

6.2 Equality and diversity, cohesion and integration

6.2.1 The introduction of a pedestrianised area will provide positive impacts for pedestrian users, especially those with mobility issues, young and old people by;

- Providing a safe area to get from one parade of shops to the other without having to negotiate dropped kerbs, the carriageway and motor vehicles.
- Provide a safe environment for the local community to sit and wait during their visit to the area.

The scheme proposals may have provided negative impacts on road users by;

- The reduction in space for vehicles to park on Allerton Grove, however this is mitigated by the fact that Allerton Grove is subject to residents only permit parking, and there are no residential properties directly adjacent to the proposed works.
- The introduction of benches may encourage groups to congregate in the area, leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour. However this is being mitigated through the police suggestions of adequate lighting, waste bins and a careful selection of planter designs.

6.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

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

6.3.2 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.

6.4 Resources and value for money

6.4.1 **Full scheme estimate:** The total estimated cost of the proposed highway works is £22,000 consisting of £18,000 works costs and £4,000 staff fee costs to be partly funded by the Moortown Community Group (£7,000) and partly from Councillors Ward Based Initiative monies (£15,000).

7 Legal implications, access to information and call-in

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

7.2 The scheme is in the annual programme and will be completed in the 2017-2018 financial year.

8.0 Risk management

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

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 It is considered appropriate to introduce these highway works as it will improve the aesthetics of the area and create a communal area, which can be used by the local community.

10.0 Recommendations

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

- i) authorise the detailed design and subsequent implementation of a scheme to introduce a new pedestrianised footway area on Allerton Grove as shown on the attached drawing TM-24-2378-01-03;
- ii) note the proposed cost of the scheme is £22,000 funded by £7,000 from the Moortown Community Group and £15,000 from Councillors Ward Based Initiative monies.
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11.0 Background documents¹

11.1 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: James Chadwick	Contact number: 3787499

1. Title: Moortown Communal Area

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify: Highway Improvement Scheme to address accident pattern and accommodate increased traffic volume associated with new development.

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

The Screening focuses on the proposals to introduce pedestrianized area on Allerton Grove in the Moortown ward. The works will improve the aesthetics of the area and maintain the road closure that is currently in place.

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**.

<p>4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration</p> <p>If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.</p> <p>Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>Due to the nature of the works the proposals will benefit the locality by providing a safe area for the local community to use and make it easier to get from one parade of shops to the other.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken with Ward Members, the Police, residents and local businesses who are all happy with the proposals.</p> <p>Various comments, suggestions and issues have been raised, all of which have been taken into account, addressed and where feasible included in the scheme proposals.</p>

- **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)

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The scheme proposals may have provided negative impacts on road users by;

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- The introduction of benches may encourage groups to congregate in the area, leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour. However this is being mitigated through the police suggestions of adequate lighting, waste bins and a careful selection of planter designs.

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

Support from local Ward Members, residents and businesses has helped maintain a positive impact on the on the local community.

The negative impacts have been assessed and mitigated where possible.

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	July 2017

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	June 2017
Date sent to Equality Team	
Date published (To be completed by the Equality Team)	