

Report of Engineering Project Manager

Report to Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Date: 06 February 2018

Subject: South Leeds SEMH Middleton Park – Proposed zebra crossing

Capital Scheme Number: 32457/ SOU/ HIG

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Middleton Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. A programme to improve the education and support for children and young people with complex social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) was approved by Leeds City Council Executive Board in November 2015. The programme will be implemented by Children’s Services and seeks to replace the existing outdated and costly provision by providing three new specially designed facilities.
2. The South Leeds SEMH facility at Belle Isle is currently under construction on the vacant former ‘Merlyn Rees High School’ site, adjacent to the South Leeds Youth Hub on Belle Isle Road.
3. The Planning permission requires a new controlled pedestrian crossing off Belle Isle Road, negotiated following requests by the Local Councillors. A proposal for a new zebra crossing and improvements to the Middleton Road junction have subsequently been developed.
4. The proposals presented will discharge the conditions for external highway works required by the planning consent.
5. This report is therefore presented to seek approval for the Section 23 notice advertisement and the construction of the new zebra crossing off Belle Isle Road.

Recommendations

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

- i) note and approve the contents of this report;
- ii) Approve the posting of a formal notice under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act for a new “zebra” controlled crossing on Belle Isle Road: and
- iii) Give authority to incur expenditure of £62,208 work costs and £9,381 staff costs to be funded by the Children’s Services Capital Plan.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- To seek approval for the posting of a formal notice under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act for a new “zebra” controlled crossing on Belle Isle Road.
- Seek approval to design, supervise and implement the works.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 In November 2015, the Executive Board approved the principles and direction of the Children’s Services “Social and Emotional Mental Health” (SEMH) programme. This programme aims to improve the education and support for children and young people with complex social, emotional and mental health needs and is part of a city wide strategy supported by both the Council and NHS. The current provision is outdated and costly and the SEMH programme intends to improve the service by providing specially designed facilities that will be managed and led by a leading provider of SEMH learning.
- 2.2 Three new facilities are proposed; North Leeds SEMH in Horsforth, East Leeds SEMH in Seacroft and South Leeds SEMH in Belle Isle. A budget of £45 million to deliver the SEMH programme was subsequently approved by the Executive Board on 27th July 2016.
- 2.3 The South Leeds SEMH is located on the site of the vacant former ‘Merlyn Rees High School’ site, adjacent to the South Leeds Youth Hub, Belle Isle. Construction of the facility is underway and programmed to be complete by February 2018.
- 2.4 The Council already have a mini S278 agreement with the school contractor, Interserve Construction Ltd, to construct the new vehicular access into the school car park.
- 2.5 A detailed design has now been developed and Stage 1 & 2 Safety Audit has been completed.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 The full design proposals are shown on drawing no. 299456/LCC/HWT/XX/DR/EP/GA_01a.
- 3.2 A new zebra crossing is proposed on Belle Isle Road, as requested and supported by the Local Councillors.
- 3.3 Additional design proposals include a pedestrian access into the new facility's car park, various new traffic signs, new white lining and an existing pedestrian crossing point closed to encourage the use of the new crossing facilities.
- 3.4 Construction of the facility is underway and programmed to be complete by February 2018. The Highways site works constitute approximately 6 weeks' work, to be complete by March 2018. The school handover is programmed for the 16th March 2018, with the school opening date on the 9th April 2018.
- 3.5 The Local Councillors have negotiated that the school's new facilities are available to the community outside of the defined school hours and on weekends. South Leeds SEMH school will have a full size community accessible artificial turf pitch. Usage of this pitch by the local community will be managed via the adjacent Leeds Youth Hub. Community usage will extend to the staff car park and adjacent multi-use games court.
- 3.6 Parking is abused on the central reservation during the sport matches on the playing fields, the Traffic department will be supporting the scheme with a Traffic funded TRO to prevent parking on the verge and footway.

4.0 Funding

- 4.1 The cost of the highway works are currently estimated as £71,589 and will be funded from the Children's Services Capital Plan. We have approval to inject funds from the Children's Services Capital Plan from the £45 million SEMH budget.

5.0 Programme

- 5.1 Construction of the facility has started and is programmed to be complete by February 2018.
- 5.2 The Highways site works constitute approximately 6 weeks' work, to be complete by March 2018. A start date is to be confirmed with the Highways term Contractor.
- 5.3 The Traffic department will be enforcing a TRO this year, to prevent parking on the verge and footways by the zebra crossing.

6.0 Corporate Considerations

6.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1.1 During the Planning process the proposed development of the three new SEMH schools has been subject to extensive and on-going engagement with key stakeholders including local community groups in South Leeds, the South Leeds Youth Hub, members of staff at the current provision, Asset Management, City Development, Parks & Countryside, Planning Department and the Principal Landscape Architect for Leeds City Development.
- 6.1.2 The Local Councillors have been consulted and are happy with the proposals. The introduction of the new pedestrian crossing was at their request.
- 6.1.3 Discussions took place with the Highways Traffic Department as part of the internal consultation. The Traffic department have agreed to fund a TRO to support the scheme and prevent parking on the central reservation and footway.
- 6.1.4 As part of the external consultation the emergency services, WYCA and local residents were notified of the highway proposals between the 20th & 25th April 2017. No objections were received.
- 6.1.5 Safety Audit: A Stage 1 & 2 Safety Audit have been carried out and its comments and recommendations have been taken into consideration resulting in some modifications, including new signage added at the central reservation cut-throughs at the junction with Middleton Road and tapered hatching to narrow the approach at the zebra crossing.

6.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 6.2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been completed and found no detrimental impacts to any groups, with positives for the local community and those groups most likely to access the new facility.
- Positives – Providing a safe controlled crossing across Belle Isle Road to benefit all users in particular parents with children and people attending the sports matches on the playing fields or attending the new SEMH facilities.
 - Negatives – The new zebra crossing may result in a slight increase in traffic congestion during peak periods if demand on the crossing is significant, however this is mitigated by the pedestrian safety aspect of the scheme.

6.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 6.3.1 These proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for children with a statement of special needs or education and care plan, which names social and emotional mental health (SEMH) as the principle need.
- 6.3.2 The proposals also contribute to the outcomes and priorities in the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021, specifically promoting mental health equality.
- 6.3.3 The proposal contributes to the city's aspirations to the Best Council and the Best City in which to grow up: a child friendly City, through the creation of provisions that offers children in Leeds the opportunity to benefit from outstanding, integrated

6.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

6.6.1 The recommendations in this report are not subject to call in.

6.7 Risk Management

6.7.1 The works are fully funded from Children's Services Capital Plan.

6.7.2 The cost estimates are based upon the 2017-2019 term contract rates.

6.7.3 A suitable level of contingency has been included in the cost estimate.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The proposals are well supported and have been developed through community involvement, negotiated following requests by the Local Councillors.

7.2 The proposals presented will discharge the conditions for external highway works required by the planning consent.

7.3 The proposals contribute to the city's aspirations to the Best Council and the Best City in which to grow up.

8.0 Recommendations

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

- i) note and approve the contents of this report;
- ii) Approve the posting of a formal notice under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act for a new "zebra" controlled crossing on Belle Isle Road; and
- iii) Give authority to incur expenditure of £62,208 work costs and £9,381 staff costs to be funded by the Children's Services Capital Plan.

9.0 Background documents¹

9.1 Report to Executive Board dated 27th July 2016 "Investment in new Social, Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Provision for children and young people".

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.

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 Development	Service area: : Highways & Transportation
Lead person: Sarai Gibson	Contact number: 0113 37 87369

1. Title: South Leeds SEMH Middleton Park – Proposed Access Arrangements

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

The proposed access arrangements will provide access to the new South Leeds SEMH Facility.

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).
<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>The Emergency Services, local residents, Ward Members and WYCA have been consulted as part of the planning and Highway consultation process. There have been no objections to the proposals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)

Positive Impacts: Providing a safe controlled crossing across Belle Isle Road to benefit all users in particular parents with children and people attending the sports matches on the playing fields or attending the new SEMH facilities.

Negative Impacts: The new zebra crossing may result in a slight increase in traffic congestion during peak periods if demand on the crossing is significant, however this is mitigated by the pedestrian safety aspect of the scheme.

- **Actions**

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

The highway proposals will provide safe access to the new development and the Local Councillors have negotiated that the new facilities and carpark are available to the community outside of the defined school hours and at the weekend.

This scheme has been subject to a key decision by Leeds City Council and approval was given on 27th July 2016.

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:	N/A
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Date to complete your impact assessment	N/A
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Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	N/A
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Mr Paul Russell	Civil Engineering Manager	January 2018

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.

If this screening relates to a **Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, full Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** a copy should be emailed to Corporate Governance and will be published along with the relevant report.

A copy of **all other** screenings should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk. For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file (but not published).

Date screening completed	
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If relates to a Key Decision - date sent to Corporate Governance	
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Any other decision – date sent to Equality Team (equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)	
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