
Report of the Director of City Development

To Executive Board

Date: 3rd November 2010

**Subject: DEPUTATION TO COUNCIL, 21 APRIL 2010
SUPPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF A MINI-ROUNDBABOUT AT THE A661,
SPOFFORTH HILL AND LINTON ROAD, WETHERBY**

Electoral Wards Affected:

Wetherby

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

A deputation from Wetherby Town Council to Council on the 21 April 2010 requested the provision of a mini-roundabout at the junction of A661, Spofforth Hill and Linton Road. This report responds to that request and identifies the current funding situation.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report provides information relating to the deputation received by Council at the April 2010 meeting.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 A deputation from the Wetherby Town Council was heard by the 21 April 2010 meeting of Council. The subject was to seek support for the provision of a mini-roundabout at the junction of the A661, Spofforth Hill and Linton Road. A copy of the deputation is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 The deputation expressed the view that one of their great concerns is traffic management, as getting into and out of Wetherby town, plus parking, can be very difficult.

2.3 The deputation stated that the A661/Linton Road junction is a particular concern as this is the main road to Harrogate from Wetherby and is used by Harrogate traffic

as a short cut from the A1 Motorway. Furthermore, the problems do not make Wetherby a 'visitor friendly town.'

- 2.4 The deputation stated the benefits of a mini-roundabout and associated traffic orders which were as follows:-
- Vehicles coming from Linton Road would have easier and safer access to the A661,
 - Speeding Traffic coming down Spofforth Hill (which has long been a problem) will be curtailed dramatically,
 - Parked traffic could be restricted so that a clearer flow of traffic can take place and it should also meet the police requirement by acting as a Speed Regulator which is currently undertaken by the parked vehicles.
- 2.5 The proposal to introduce a mini-roundabout was first included in the Wetherby Traffic Management Plan in 2001 and reviewed in the public exhibition in 2006. The outcome of the 2006 exhibition was that with just a few changes, the public supported the proposed Wetherby Traffic Management Plan (WTM). The overall plan was approved by the, then, Joint Highways Technical Board in 2007.
- 2.6 The cost of the proposed mini-roundabout, detailed on Drawing no. HDC-713038 – 01B – GA, and associated work was estimated at £67,000. Benefits included a reduction in speed of traffic on Spofforth Hill, improved pedestrian crossing facilities and improved access to the A661 from Linton Road. The mini-roundabout proposal received the support of Ward Members, Emergency Services, Metro (WYPTE) and Leeds City Council officers.
- 2.7 A number of the elements of the overall Traffic Management Plan are now built and delivering benefits to Wetherby. These were funded from the Section 106 monies available at that time. Other elements of the WTM Plan, such as Linton Road mini-roundabout, are awaiting alternative funding.
- 3.0 Main Issues**
- 3.1 Following receipt of the deputation a review of the original proposal has been undertaken by officers with the aim of reducing the cost of the proposed mini-roundabout.
- 3.2 The revised estimated cost following a review of the rates for the scheme and removal of a raised area shown in Drawing No. HDC-713038 – 01B – GA, is £55,000. This comprises £36,000 for civils works, £10,000 for street lighting and £9,000 staff costs.
- 3.3 While benefits in terms of accident reduction and reduction in speed of vehicles cannot be quantified it is accepted that the provision of the mini-roundabout would cause all vehicles to slow down for the feature, provide improved informal crossings for pedestrians and improve traffic circulation. Considering all these issues it is considered that Highways and Transportation would be able to support the proposal with a 50% financial contribution in the current financial year.
- 3.4 To progress the scheme to detailed design and construction therefore requires a further £27,500 to be funded from other sources.
- 3.5 Wetherby Town Council have indicated they will provide funding to the value of £25,000. Written confirmation of this is awaited.
- 3.6 In view of this offer, Highways and Transportation will increase its contribution by £2,500. to cover the shortfall.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 This report does not raise any specific implications for Council policy and Governance.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 This report has no specific legal and resource implications.

6.0 Risk Assessments

6.1 No risks, other than those normally associated with the funding and delivering of schemes on the public highway are associated with the scheme.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The principle of introducing a mini-roundabout at this junction and the benefits to be obtained have received considerable support. However the benefits are not sufficient for the proposal to have received priority for full funding within the 2010-11 Highways and Transportation programme. The review has identified a number of potential cost savings compared to the original estimate, and the revised estimated cost is £55,000. An allocation of £30k of this funding; comprising £20k from Highway Maintenance, £5k from Integrated Transport and £5k from Traffic Capital, is available from within Highways & Transportation budgets for 2010/11, leaving a further £25k to be found locally.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Members of the Executive Board are requested to:

- note the contents of the report,
- support in principle, the provision of a mini-roundabout at the A661 Spofforth Hill/Linton Road,
- support the provision of £30k of the scheme costs from Highways and Transportation budgets
- agree that the scheme should be injected into the programme subject to the remaining verbally agreed £25k of the costs coming from local funding being confirmed in writing.

Appendix 1 - Deputation to Leeds City Council from the Wetherby Town Council seeking support to the provision of a mini-roundabout at the junction of A661, Spofforth Hill and Linton Road.

Appendix 2 – proposed mini-roundabout plan

Background Papers - None