

Division(s): Sutton Courtenay and Marcham
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## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 11 JANUARY 2018**

### **A4130 AT MILTON – PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING AND EXTENSION OF 40MPH SPEED LIMIT**

#### **Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to provide a toucan crossing (a signalled crossing for pedestrians and pedal cyclists) approximately 500 metres east of the A34 / A4130 Milton interchange roundabout, and - in conjunction with the proposed crossing and to facilitate its safe operation – to extend the existing 40mph speed limit eastwards by 200 metres in place of the current national speed limit.

#### **Background**

2. The above proposals have been put forward as part of wider works to provide a safe and convenient route for pedestrians and cyclists between Milton Park and nearby settlements including Didcot, Milton and also the amenities at the Milton services on the south side of the A4130 east of the A34 / A4130 Milton interchange. A plan showing the proposals is provided at Annex 1.

#### **Consultation**

3. The formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 8 November and 8 December 2017. A public notice was placed in the Didcot Herald newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, Didcot Town Council, Harwell, Sutton Courtenay, and Milton Parish Councils and local County Councillors. Street notices were also placed in the vicinity of the proposed crossing location.
4. Four responses were received, comprising an objection from Thames Valley Police that the current speeds were too high and could compromise the safety of the crossing. Responses from Didcot Town Council, Milton Parish Council and The Vale of White Horse District Council expressed no objections to the proposal. However, Didcot Town Council's response did raise a concern that the proposed crossing was close to the existing traffic signalled junction to the west and also that the proposal was possibly premature. These responses are summarised at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

#### **Response to objection and other comments**

5. The objection of Thames Valley Police is noted. A speed survey carried out in the vicinity of the crossing shows average speeds to be 45mph eastbound and 46mph westbound and it is anticipated that with the proposed 40mph speed limit in place, speeds would reduce by approximately 3mph, bringing the speeds here to a level consistent with those observed in other 40mph speed limits. It is also considered that the proposed speed limit is consistent with the Department for Transport guidance on setting local speed limits taking account of the character of the road. It should also be noted that signalled crossings of this type installed on roads subject to a 40mph speed limit operate with very good levels of safety.
6. Didcot Town Council's comment on the proximity of the proposed crossing to the traffic signalled junction to the west is noted. While it is accepted that the crossing is quite close (approximately 230 metres) to the latter junction, the separation is nevertheless considered acceptable, noting also that an independent safety audit of the crossing will be carried out. In respect of their comment that the project is premature, the crossing is being provided as part of a wider project to provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to Milton Park, including the recently opened Backhill Tunnel cycle and pedestrian link .

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

7. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

8. Funding for the amended speed limit has been provided from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

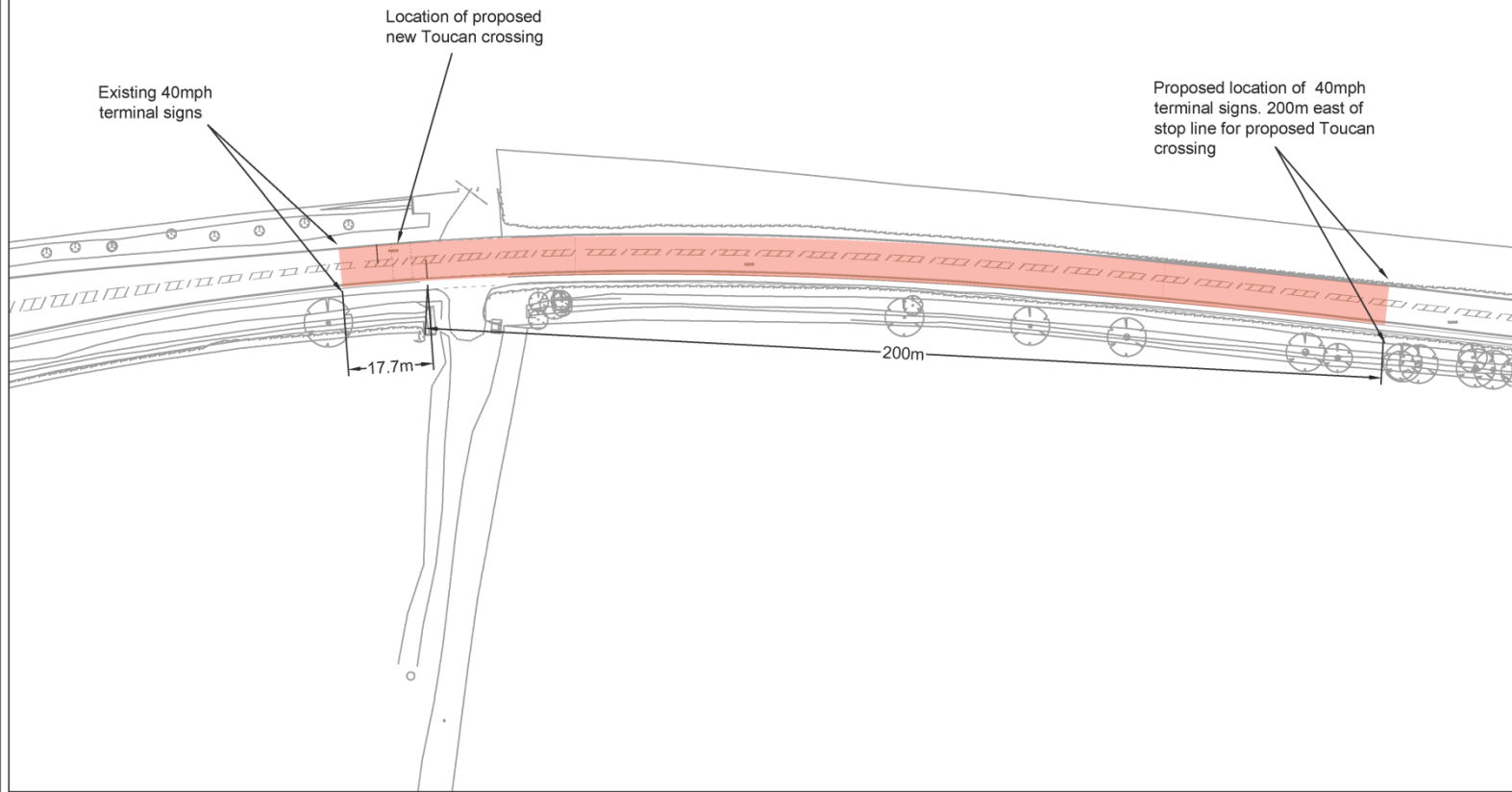
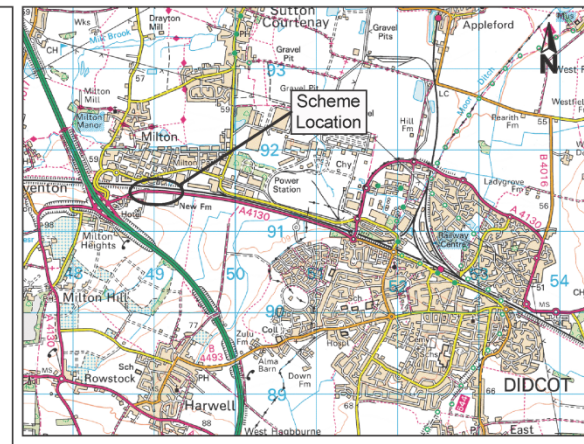
9. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposals to provide a toucan crossing (a signalled crossing for pedestrians and pedal cyclists) approximately 500 metres east of the A34 / A4130 Milton interchange roundabout, and - in conjunction with the proposed crossing and to facilitate its safe operation – to extend the existing 40mph speed limit eastwards by 200 metres in place of the current national speed limit as advertised.**

OWEN JENKINS  
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed toucan crossing and 40mph speed limit  
Consultation responses

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January 2018

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Drawing No. S-022201-CON-000-001 Revision 0

KEY:  
 Section of highway to be changed from National Limit to 40mph limit

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

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Project title  
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Drawing title  
**A4130  
 Traffic Regulation Order  
 Extension of 40mph Zone**

Drawing Status Issued for Consultation

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
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 Drawing No. S-022201-CON-000-001 Revision 0

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Milton Parish Council	<b>No objection</b> – <i>No comment.</i>
(2) Didcot Town Council	<b>No objection</b> - Welcomes the prospect of increased pedestrian access to Milton Park. However, there are concerns over the location of the proposed crossing's proximity to existing lights and other proposed crossings and the cumulative impact these crossings will have on traffic flow. We feel that the proposal may be premature at this point in time.
(3) Traffic Management Officer (Thames Valley Police)	<b>Object</b> - After careful consideration of the documents and speed data provided, I object to these proposals. Existing speeds are clearly too high and this could compromise safety on the crossing point. Extending the current 40mph speed limit by 200m I also feel is excessive without other measures to slow speeds.
(4) Vale of White Horse District Council	<b>No objection</b> - Satisfied for Oxfordshire County Council's Traffic Regulation Team to determine the proposal.