CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 MARCH 2016 PROPOSED PEGASUS CROSSING – CHILTON

Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report considers objections received as a result of a formal consultation on a proposal to introduce a Pegasus crossing on Hagbourne Hill, near Townsend, Chilton. A Pegasus crossing consists of a signalled equestrian crossing alongside a standard Toucan (pedestrian and cycles only) crossing.

Background

2. At the Cabinet Member Decisions meeting on 14 January 2016 as part of consideration of a number of traffic measures in the Chilton area and in response to a large number of representations from the equestrian community, it was agreed to defer a final decision regarding the provision of a crossing near Townsend to enable further discussion on the provision of a form of modified crossing for use by horses.

Revised proposal and consultation

- 3. Following the deferral in January officers have prepared a scheme for a Pegasus crossing parallel to the Toucan crossing previously proposed. The new scheme (see plan at Annex 1) has been discussed and agreed with representatives of the British Horse Society and has been circulated to all those who responded/objected, many of whom have responded positively. The new proposals were also re-issued for formal consultation which took place between 10 February and 4 March 2016. A public notice was published in the Didcot Herald and street notices erected within the vicinity of the site. In addition an email was sent to statutory consultees and proposals were added to the County's online consultation portal.
- 4. A total of 3 responses were received during the consultation period of which there was only one objection.

Objections, Concerns and Responses

5. The objector questioned the need for a Pegasus crossing, the safety of its proximity to the roundabout and whether a segregated tunnel would be safer and improve traffic flow. In response, the need for an equestrian crossing has been realised following the original consultation, which invoked a large response from the equestrian community regarding lack of provision for horse riders. The crossing will be designed to national standards to ensure it is

positioned at an appropriate distance from the roundabout and will also be subject to a Road Safety Audit. Whilst it is acknowledged that a tunnel would potentially be safer the cost would be prohibitive. It should be noted that use of the Toucan/Pegasus crossing is likely to be off-peak so the impact on traffic flows would be limited.

6. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposals but asked that the crossing is designed to LTN 2/95 with speed monitoring to confirm that these standards are met and tactile paving is provided for the Toucan crossing. There was also a response requesting a modification to the layout of the equestrian route on the south side of the crossing. All these comments will be taken forward to the detailed design and incorporated where appropriate.

Conclusion

7. The re-designed crossing, incorporating an equestrian facility, has generally been met with support and it is recommended that the combined Toucan/Pegasus crossing be approved for construction.

How the Project supports LTP4 Goals

8. The proposals described in this report would help to reduce the risk of accidents and improve public health, safety and individual wellbeing.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

9. Funding for the proposals is being delivered by Department for Transport monies, whilst the appraisal of the proposals and consultation has been undertaken by officers as part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the implementation of the proposals as advertised and described in this report.

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Cabinet Member Decision Report – 14 January 2016

Consultation responses

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