

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 10 MAY 2018**

### **A420 AT BUCKLAND – PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAYS**

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

#### **Introduction**

1. A proposal to provide bus stops, including a bus stop clearway on the south side of the road within a layby, and a pedestrian refuge on the A420 at Buckland, approximately 150 metres north-east of the Buckland Service Station as approved by the Vale of White Horse Council (it should be noted that the formal consultation was specifically in relation to the bus stop clearway) was considered by the Leader of the Council at the Cabinet Member for Environment Delegated Decision meeting on 12 April 2018. A copy of that report is attached at Annex 1. After considering the consultation responses and a representation made at the meeting by County Councillor Judith Heathcoat, the local member, he deferred a decision to allow further information to be obtained on the rationale behind the proposal in respect of encouraging customers and staff at the new development to change their travel patterns to the site taking account also of the planning consent issued by the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

#### **Background**

2. The proposal had been put forward as part of a proposed development on the south side of the A420 at the Buckland Services site and a plan showing the proposal is provided with the previous report at Annex 1.

#### **Evaluation of the likely use of the bus stops and the feasibility of alternative provision for bus user and pedestrian access to the site.**

3. Officers have examined the information submitted by the developer to the Vale of White Horse District Council in respect of the type and scale of the development specifically to assess the likely demand for bus travel to and from the site. The development comprises a motel with 61 rooms and a diner with 118 covers. Total staff numbers on site at any one time would be unlikely to exceed 20 and, on the assumption that only a relatively small proportion (perhaps no more than 20%) would be bus users and taking account of changes of staff during the day, the number of bus trips to and from the site would unlikely exceed 10 per day. There could also be a small demand for bus travel by customers of the motel (for example those wishing to make trips into Oxford).

4. Officers have also further reviewed the scope for providing a footway on the south side of the A420 between the existing bus stops/refuge at the Buckland crossroads as requested by Councillor Heathcoat and also as raised by Buckland Parish Council and Pusey Parish meeting. While there is sufficient highway land available to accommodate a footway of adequate width, the cost of such a scheme (noting its length - at just over 500 metres – and technical considerations due to the varying level of the verge, and the onerous construction traffic management requirements at this site) would be high, and it is not considered viable or proportionate to request this from the development taking account of the anticipated generation of bus or pedestrian trips. It should also be noted that this option would require bus users travelling to/from the development site to walk much further than is required by the current proposals and does not accord with what was approved at planning and secured within the Section 106 agreement.
5. The proposed bus stop provision including the pedestrian refuge is in line with other similar provision along the A420.
6. Taking account of the above, and that planning consent has been granted by the Vale of the White Horse District Council on the basis of the proposed scheme being delivered, it is recommended that the scheme be approved as advertised.

### **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 proposed bus stops, layby and refuge has been provided from the developers of land adjacent to the A420.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

9. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposals to provide bus stops, including a bus stop clearway on the south side of the road within a layby, and a pedestrian refuge on the A420 at Buckland, approximately 150 metres north-east of the Buckland Service Station as advertised.**

OWEN JENKINS  
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers:           Plan of proposed bus stop clearways  
  Consultation responses

Contact Officers:               Hugh Potter 07766 998704  
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