

REPORT TO WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

Millennium Centre Wednesday 10th September 2009 6.30pm

WASHINGTON ROAD SAFETY MEASURES.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Washington Area Committee of progress to date on traffic issues in Washington.

2.1 BACKGROUND

2.1 Many of the traffic problems reported in the Washington area occur throughout each of its villages. As a result of Washington's unique layout, it was considered appropriate to produce a strategy to target road safety, accessibility and community safety across the whole of the area. The key issues for consideration are listed below:

- Road safety / accident reduction
- Vehicle speeds / speed limits
- Public transport access / bus only links
- Safer routes to schools / school travel plans
- Appropriate use of the road hierarchy / Freight transport routes
- Pedestrian facilities / access

2.2 A strategy was presented to Washington Members at a special meeting on 6 November 2007 where it was agreed that two issues would be targeted as a priority. These were the bus only links in each village centre and those perimeter routes that have inadequate footway provision. The project will introduce new pedestrian links and bus stop facilities thereby improving conditions for current bus users and encouraging more public transport use.

2.3 At its meeting of 12 March 2008, Cabinet approved SIP funding of £500,000 for the following Washington Road Safety Measures:

- improvements to Bus-Only Links
- improvements to pedestrian access
- accident reduction

2.4 The key benefits will be centred on the safe movement of pedestrians, as well as more efficient and sustainable transport links for the Washington Area, which are consistent with the strategies set out in the current Local Transport Plan (LTP). As a result, a contribution of matched funding to the value of £150,000 will be made available from the LTP. This matched funding and the SIP allocation has been made available over a three-year period commencing April 2008.

2.5 As a result of a combined total funding allocation of £650,000 from SIP and LTP, it was clear that not all the elements of the originally proposed Washington Strategy could be delivered over the three-year period. Following consultation with Members, the Washington Area Committee at its meeting of 18 December 2008, agreed priority schemes to be included in each of the three key elements of the strategy, as listed below.

2.6 Footway Links (£150,000)

The six footway link schemes identified as priorities are listed below.

Cambrian Way (part)	£46,400
Burnhope Road	£7,500
Pattinson Road	£55,000
Stone Cellar Road	£15,000
Sulgrave Road	£6,100
Ayton Road South (part)	£20,000
Total	£150,000

2.7 Bus Links (£350,000)

The three pilot schemes, whereby bus-only links would be opened to through traffic, with supporting traffic calming features, are listed below.

Parsons Road, Parsons Industrial Estate	£13,190.78
Brandy Lane, Albany	£25,620.13
Dunnock Drive, Ayton	£21,149.99
Total	£59,960.90

2.8 Accident Cluster Sites (£150,000)

Jacobs, the Council's current framework consultant, was commissioned to carry out a detailed assessment of the 10 priority accident cluster sites listed below. Schemes would be identified for each of the 10 clusters and those that offered the most cost effective solution would be set against the available budget of £150,000. The Committee should note that it may not, therefore, be possible to deliver all 10 schemes.

A182/A1290 (Havannah Road) Intersection
A182/A1231 Intersection
A182/A195 Intersection
A1231/Windlass Lane Intersection
Heworth Road
Castle Road
Parkway
A1290 (Washington Road)
Concord
A1231/A195 Intersection

2.9 In addition to the three elements of the Washington Strategy described above, Washington Councillors have asked that the following traffic issues should be included in this report:

- Bonemill Lane: speeding traffic
- Vigo Lane: waiting restrictions
- Rickleton Way: speed limit
- Coquet: traffic calming measures
- Holley Park Primary School: traffic issues
- Ayton Road: location of footway provision
- Castle Road: negotiations with gentoo about footway provision

- Kestrel Close: parking problems
- School Keep Clear road markings for five schools
- 20mph Speed Limits in vicinity of schools
- HGVs in residential areas
- Ayton Road: speeding traffic
- Crowther Road: speeding traffic
- Emerson Road: speeding traffic
- Gladstone Terrace: footway provision
- Brady Square/Robinson Terrace: traffic assessment
- Parkway: signal controlled pedestrian crossing and pedestrian refuge

2.10 The additional traffic issues are discussed in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.0 WASHINGTON STRATEGY: PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 Jacobs was commissioned to develop the Washington Strategy in August 2008.

3.2 Footway Links.

Jacobs is currently carrying out the detailed design of the footways, which should be completed by 7 September 2009, together with detailed estimates of the costs involved. A report will be submitted to Cabinet in November 2009, seeking approval for funding. Subject to Cabinet approval for funding, work is scheduled to start on site in December 2009.

3.3 Bus Only Links.

Preliminary consultations have been carried out for the experimental traffic regulation order (TRO) required to open the three bus-only links –Parsons Road, Dunnock Drive and Brandy Lane- to all traffic. Jacobs has reviewed the consultation responses, and recommendations for funding will be reported to Cabinet in October 2009. Subject to Cabinet approval the works associated with re-opening the three bus only links will be carried out during the autumn. The completed schemes will be monitored for an initial period of 6 months before decisions are made in respect of making the experimental TROs permanent, and the preferred treatments for the rest of the bus-only links in Washington.

3.4 Once draft preliminary design options have been finalised, initial consultations will be carried out involving key partner organisations, the Washington Ward Members and those residences and businesses directly affected by the proposals. The results of the consultation will be reported to a future meeting of this committee, and to Cabinet and Planning and Highways Committee as required.

3.4 Accident Cluster Sites

Three of the 10 schemes have been developed or are under development. These are

- A1231/A182 signalised roundabout installation, which is almost completed on site.
- Castle Road traffic calming scheme, which has been amended to reduce the number of kerb build-outs and provide 'gateway' features. Subject to delegated approval the scheme is scheduled to be completed within the current financial year.

- Heworth Road traffic calming scheme, which has been circulated to Ward Members for comment. The feedback from Members will be incorporated into a Delegated Decision and report. Subject to delegated approval, the scheme is scheduled to be completed within the current financial year.

3.4 The seven remaining accident cluster sites are being evaluated by Jacobs, with an instruction to provide preliminary designs by mid-October 2009, bearing in mind the budget of £150K. The schemes that can be achieved will be submitted to the Washington Area Committee for its views before work starts on consultations and detailed design. It is proposed to seek Cabinet approval for the proposed schemes in April 2010.

4.0 PROPOSAL

4.1 In order to ensure that the Committee kept up to date with progress on the Washington Strategy and other traffic-related matters, it is proposed that the Area Officer (Washington and East) should meet, monthly, with the Traffic and Road Safety Section Manager to discuss traffic issues raised by the Committee or Washington Councillors. The Area Officer would then report back to the Committee regarding progress on those issues.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is RECOMMENDED that: -

- i) the Committee notes the contents of this report.
- ii) the Committee approves the implementation of monthly meetings between the Area Officer and the Traffic and Road Safety Section Manager, to provide regular updates on traffic issues raised by Washington Members.

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ISSUES RAISED BY WASHINGTON MEMBERS

TRAFFIC ISSUE	RAISED BY	UPDATE
Bonemill Lane: speeding traffic	Councillor G. Miller and Councillor K. Chamberlin.	Bonemill Lane is included in a current review of speed limits on single carriageway roads, within the City, that are subject to the National Speed Limit.
Vigo Lane	Councillor G. Miller and Councillor K. Chamberlin.	The proposed waiting restrictions are included in a batch of similar proposals that are currently being finalised. Further consultation has been necessary with the Medical Centre, and the result of that consultation will be incorporated into the Delegated Decision sheet and report that are to be submitted to the Director.
Rickleton Way: speed limit	Councillor G. Miller	A speed survey, carried out in July 2008, showed 85%ile speeds of 35mph southbound and 34 northbound. The accident records show two slight, personal injury accidents in the last three years, one of which was speed related. The Council will seek to develop a policy which will contain guidelines to enable roads such as Rickleton Way to be evaluated and prioritized for the implementation of 20mph speed limits subject to a policy being agreed.
Coquet: traffic calming measures	Councillor G. Miller	A speed survey, carried out in December 2008, showed 85%ile speeds of 22mph in each direction. The accident records show one slight, personal injury accidents in the last three years, which was not speed related. A Delegated Decision sheet and report are in the

		process of being finalised, in respect of the petition received requesting traffic calming.
Holley Park Primary School: traffic issues.	Councillor G. Miller and Councillor K. Chamberlin	A Delegated Decision sheet and report in respect of a petition requesting a solution to the school's parking problems has been prepared for consideration.
Ayton Road: location of footway provision	Councillor K. Chamberlin	Footways are proposed between the junctions with Crowther Road and Raby Road, and between the junctions with Kestrel Close and Fulmar Drive.
Castle Road: negotiations with gentoo regarding footway provision	Councillor K. Chamberlin	(Latest situation to be reported at the Area Committee meeting)
School Keep Clear road markings for five schools	Councillor K. Chamberlin	The City Solicitor has been instructed to make the necessary traffic regulation orders for the Washington Area.
20mph Speed Limits in vicinity of schools	Councillor K. Chamberlin	The Council will seek to develop a policy which will contain guidelines to enable roads in the vicinity of schools to be evaluated and prioritized for the implementation of 20mph speed limits subject to a policy being agreed.
HGVs in residential areas	Councillor K. Chamberlin	The City Solicitor has recently been instructed to make the necessary traffic regulation order to prohibit vehicles in excess of 7.5 tonnes from Spout Lane and Springwell Village. The Council will consider Members' requests for similar restrictions in other areas of Washington.
Kestrel Close parking problems	Councillor K. Chamberlin	The Council has no funds for the provision of private parking spaces for residents. A Delegated Decision and report has been drafted for consideration by the Director of Development and Regeneration.
Ayton Road: speeding traffic	Councillor K. Chamberlin	A speed survey, carried out in June 2007, showed

		85%ile speeds of between 33 and 35mph. The accident records show three slight, personal injury accidents in the last three years, none of which was speed related. The Council will seek to develop a policy which will contain guidelines to enable roads such as Ayton Road to be evaluated and prioritized for the implementation of 20mph speed limits subject to a policy being agreed.
Crowther Road: speeding traffic	Councillor K. Chamberlin	Following an approach from Sharon Hodgson MP a traffic speed survey has been commissioned. The Committee will be advised of the results of the survey. The accident records show one serious and two slight personal injury accidents, none of which was speed related. The Council will seek to develop a policy which will contain guidelines to enable roads such as Crowther Road to be evaluated and prioritized for the implementation of 20mph speed limits subject to a policy being agreed.
Emerson Road: speeding traffic	Councillor K. Chamberlin	Following an approach from Sharon Hodgson MP a traffic speed survey has been commissioned. The Committee will be advised of the results of the survey. The accident records show no personal injury accidents. The Council will seek to develop a policy which will contain guidelines to enable roads such as Emerson Road to be evaluated and prioritized for the implementation of 20mph speed limits subject to a policy being agreed.
Gladstone Terrace:	Councillor K. Chamberlin	A narrow footpath runs

footway request		along the western gable of the terrace in a similar arrangement to other terraces on Usworth Station Road. However, Members may wish to amend the list of footway schemes in the Washington Strategy to include the provision of an additional, wider footway at the western end of Gladstone Terrace.
Brady Square/Robinson Terrace: traffic assessment	Councillor E. Timmins	Councillor Timmins will be contacted to establish the nature of his concerns, following which the matter will be investigated.
Parkway: signal controlled pedestrian crossing and pedestrian refuge	Councillor E. Timmins	Crossing and refuge to be included in capital programme for 2009/10.