

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Place
to
**Traffic and Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee**
on
31st October 2013

Report prepared by: Zulfiqar Ali, Strategic Highways and
Traffic Manager

Members Requests List

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Tony Cox
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Traffic and Parking Working Party & Cabinet Committee to note and consider new “Member’s Requests” and Officers’ recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Traffic and Parking and the Cabinet Committee consider the views of the Working Party and Officer recommendations on each of the proposals as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, and agree:
- a) To proceed with Officers’ recommendations, or,
 - b) To proceed with Officers’ recommendations, with amendments; or,
 - c) To take no further action.

3. Background

- 3.1 Members may formally request highway and traffic improvement works to be considered. These requests vary from minor traffic, road safety and parking initiatives and may include new pedestrian crossing facilities, traffic speed, road safety and residents parking schemes.
- 3.2 Officers receive and add all such requests to the “Members list” and report these at the earliest opportunity. Officers’ recommendations are based on limited findings of the investigation and/or the outcome of surveys/consultations where possible. Any further updates with appropriate Officer recommendations are then presented to future Traffic and Parking Working Party & Cabinet Committee meetings for their consideration and decision, as and when they become available.

3.3 The committee is aware of the increasing workload resulting from “Members Requests”. This is a small team with limited financial resources to address all such which require extensive investigations in most cases. As such there is a need to prioritise these against a clear set of criteria and programmed against the limited budget and staffing available to undertake necessary investigations to deliver these in the most efficient way.

3.4 It needs to be noted that once a formal conclusion has been reached on the individual items, to the agreement of the Traffic and Parking Working Group & the Cabinet Committee, these will be removed from the list and where appropriate, added to the work programme for future prioritisation.

3.4 Officers will update Members of the progress of their individual requests and will inform them of the findings, investigations, the recommendations and reasons thereof, as well as the decisions made by this Committee.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 To provide a rationalised management and decision making process for all formal requests for highways and traffic management improvements by Ward Councillors via the Traffic and Parking Working Party & Cabinet Committee.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council’s Vision & Corporate Priorities

The Members Requests List is a mechanism for Ward Councillors to request works outside of the programmed works schedule and to identify potential safety issues therefore contributing to a ‘Safer Southend’.

6.2 Financial Implications

Requests which are recommended for any action will be funded via existing budgetary resources. However, the resources are limited and where additional funding is required outside of the agreed financial and work programmes, appropriate bids for funding will be prepared and submitted to the funding group/organisation for their consideration and decision. The implementation of a scheme will be subject to funding. The approved schemes will be added to the current work programme based on the agreed priority by the Committee and implemented as resources allow.

6.3 Legal Implications

Where requests involve any requirement for a Traffic Regulation Order, the relevant statutory procedures will be followed including the requirement for formal consultation with affected frontagers’ and advertisement in the local press.

6.4 People Implications

There are limitations in staff time and an increase in Members’ requests can place additional strain on limited resources which may lead to delays in

investigations and reporting back to the Working Party and the Cabinet Sub Committee.

6.5 **Property Implications**

None

6.6 **Consultation**

Formal and informal consultation will be carried out, as required, and directed by this Committee. In addition all ward councillors are to be informed of the consultation process prior to its commencement.

7. **Background Papers**

None

8 **Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 –Updated Members Requests List – October 2013