

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise, Tourism & the
Environment

to
**Traffic & Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee**

on
6th January 2011

Agenda
Item No.

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Services

Southchurch Boulevard Proposed Zebra Crossing, at New Entrance to Futures College

Executive Councillor: Councillor Flewitt
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposal to install a staggered zebra crossing on Southchurch Boulevard, 12m east of its junction with Wick Chase, and to seek approval to advertise the necessary Statutory Notice on site and in the local press as required under Section 23 (Pedestrian Crossings) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the following be supported:

- The detailed design for the zebra and the associated carriageway works be progressed
- The Working Party and Cabinet Committee resolves that the Chief Executive and Town Clerk be authorised to advertise the relevant Public Notice for the zebra crossing.
- That should no objections be received, the proposals be implemented.

3. Background

A new pedestrian crossing has been requested as a condition of the planning agreement for the New Futures college development. The purpose of the crossing is to provide a safe crossing point for pupils arriving and leaving the school who use the bus stop on the north side of the carriageway east of Wick Chase and also for those pupils living north of Southchurch Boulevard.

The proposed crossing will be located approximately 46m east of the existing zebra crossing located at the entrance to Southend High School for Girls, but it is considered that pupils leaving Futures College are unlikely to walk in the opposite direction to their bus stop in order to cross the road safely, especially if it is likely to result in them missing a bus. It is also considered that if Futures College pupils were to use the Zebra crossing allocated to Southend High School for Girls it may result in overcrowding and overcapacity issues at the existing crossing. The layout of the crossing is proposed as shown in Appendix 1, but the main features of the crossing are as listed below.

The accident record for Southchurch Boulevard shows that there have been 12 reported personal injury accidents between November 2005 & October 2010. Of the 12 accidents reported 2 were recorded as serious. It is expected that the provision of a zebra crossing in this location would help mitigate the risk of some accidents on Southchurch Boulevard. The 85th percentile speed on Southchurch Boulevard has been recorded as less than 30mph, which is an acceptable speed criteria for the provision of a zebra crossing.

Key Features of Scheme

1. 50 metres of new anti skid surfacing on both approaches
2. New "Zebrite" high visibility zebra beacons
3. New lighting columns to increase visibility of crossing area
4. Staggered barriers on approaches to the zebra for improved safety
5. Build outs on south and north side of the carriageway to reduce crossing width and increase visibility of pedestrians.

4. Other Options

Do nothing

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To improve road safety for pupils and to meet the conditions of the planning agreement for the college.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Safe - This project contributes the Councils vision to become a safe borough as it provides a safe place for young people to cross the road. Healthy - It will also contribute to the Councils Vision to become a Healthy borough by encouraging people to walk and use sustainable means of transport.

6.2 Financial Implications

The resource implications of this report are limited to the ongoing revenue costs for maintenance. The scheme implementation is fully funded from funds received from Futures College under the terms of the section 106 agreement with Southend Borough Council.

6.3 Legal Implications

Implementation of the scheme will require Notices which follow a statutory legal process.

Any enforcement with respect to the zebra crossings' controlled zone is a matter for the police.

These matters have been discussed and agreed by an officer within the Department of Legal and Democratic Services.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

Some accommodation works may be required to private vehicle accesses in close proximity of the crossing.

6.6 Consultation

If the proposals are supported for implementation, a period of formal consultation will follow (21 days) with any objections to be presented at a future meeting of the T&PWP&CC.

If none are received, it is proposed that the scheme be implemented as soon as possible.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The proposal will provide a safe crossing place for visually and physically impaired pedestrians

6.8 Risk Assessment

The main risk to the council is non delivery of the scheme; this will result in the inability to meet the planning requirements as laid out by the council in their Section 106 Agreement with Futures College. Non delivery of the scheme would also result in return of the funds for the project to the developer of Futures College, as the funding has been clearly specified to be used for this purpose. There is also a significant risk of provision of a major amenity without a safe means to get to and from the amenity.

6.9 Value for Money

The option presented for approval is the most cost effective option for provision of a safe pedestrian crossing place at this location on Southchurch Boulevard. The scheme is funded separately from funds received from the developer of the futures college.

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Plan of the Proposals

Appendix 2: Accident Statistics