

Cabinet Member for City Services

8th April 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylesmore

Title: Petition – To Improve Safety at Junction of Abbey Road and London Road

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 212 e-signatures has been received requesting the installation of traffic signals at the junction of Abbey Road and London Road.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered this petition prior to this meeting and in response to the request made, requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter), rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

The determination letter dated 14th July 2018, advised of the investigations undertaken, the action proposed and approved in response to the issues raised. On receipt of the determination letter the petitioner advised they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted the issue to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The cost of introducing road safety measures, is funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the petitioners concerns.
2. Endorse the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson (as detailed in paragraphs 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 of the report) and monitor the impact of measures already installed.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location Plan

Appendix B – Determination letter

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petition – To Improve Safety at Junction of Abbey Road and London Road

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition of 212 e-signatures has been received requesting the installation of traffic signals at the junction of Abbey Road and London Road, Whitley. The petition is supported by Councillor Bailey.
- 1.2 The petition advises:

“To have traffic lights installed at the junction of Abbey road and London road. Now bus lane is no more traffic is faster and does not give way to traffic tuning into abbey road and even worse getting out on to London road”
- 1.3 London Road is a major route into and out of Coventry, and carry’s a high volume of traffic. Abbey Road and the surrounding road network comprises residential properties and a number of Schools.
- 1.4 The installation of traffic signals require a number of important considerations, including personal injury collisions, vehicle flows, dominant turning manoeuvres and project cost. Analysis of personal injury collisions at this junction revealed that accidents were predominantly related to speeding vehicles. To prevent collisions at this junction, we have installed Average Speed Cameras (ASE), as described below. There are currently no proposals to signalise London Road’s junction with Abbey Road, however this junction will continue to be monitored as part of our annual collision review.
- 1.5 As part of the 2018/19 Local Safety Scheme Programme, ASE cameras have recently been installed on London Road, from its junction with A46 to its junction with Allard Way. ASE cameras are a relatively new speed enforcement technique that detect vehicles through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and calculate their average speed by measuring the time taken to travel between defined points, a known distance apart.
- 1.6 ASE has many benefits including speed management, and unlike traditional ‘fixed’ camera locations, ASE enhances road safety over the entire length of London Road, including its junction with Abbey Road. Although ASE became operational in January 2019, feedback from Councillors and through observations reveal that ASE has decreased the number of drivers speeding at this location. Ensuring drivers travel at safe speeds will significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents at this junction. A comprehensive evaluation will be undertaken after ASE has been operational for 6 months, and the results will be shared with the petition organiser and Local Councillors.
- 1.7 In addition to the ASE project, a number of other road safety measures have been installed on Abbey Road and surrounding roads in close proximity to the two Schools. This includes the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) installed in December 2017. An analysis of vehicular speeds since installation has indicated that the VAS has been very successful in ensuring drivers drive within the speed limit; with 85th percentile speeds of 26mph and mean speeds of 17mph recorded.
- 1.8 In July 2018, ‘School Ahead’ signs and carriageway ‘SLOW’ markings were also installed on Abbey Road and surrounding roads on all approaches to the two Schools. The aim of these measures are to ensure drivers travel at appropriate speeds on Abbey Road and surrounding roads. Observations have revealed that each of these measures optimise road safety at this location.

1.9 In addition, a School time 20mph speed limit is proposed to be installed in the 2019/20 financial year. A location plan is shown in Appendix A to the report.

1.10 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member considered the petition prior to this meeting and in response requested that the issue was dealt with by determination letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

1.11 The determination letter (copy in Appendix B to the report) advised of the road safety measures we have recently installed to reduce and prevent accidents at this junction.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The recommended proposals regarding the issues raised have already been approved and are detailed in the determination letter (Appendix B refers) and paragraphs 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 of the report.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The actions described have already been undertaken.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

None.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications of the recommended proposal.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

N/A

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No specific equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s)

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Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
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Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Place	26.03.19	27.03.19
Names of approvers: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Place	26.03.19	26.03.19
Rob Parkes	Team Leader, Legal Services	Place	26.03.19	28.03.19
Councillor P Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	25.03.19	25.03.19

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Appendix A – Location plan



Appendix B – Copy of text of determination letter

Re: petition submitted on 14 July 2018

Subject matter: To improve safety at the junction of Abbey Road / London Road

I am writing with regard to the above petition and your request for measures to improve safety at the junction of Abbey Road and London Road.

The matter was discussed with the Cabinet Member for City Services, who requested that this be dealt with by way of letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a future meeting, so that it can be dealt with more quickly.

As part of this year's Local Safety Scheme programme, average speed cameras are being installed on London Road between its junction with Allard Way and the A46. This should help to address your concerns regarding speeding. There are currently no proposals to signalise the junction. However, it will continue to be monitored as part of the annual collision review.

I would be grateful if you could please confirm in writing, either by email or letter, that you agree that the petition be progressed by way of this letter. If you do not agree, a report responding to your petition will be prepared for consideration at a future Cabinet Member meeting. You will be invited to attend this meeting where you have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.