Signalised Crossing, Higher Exeter Road, Teignmouth

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the scheme shown on plan 70099558-WSP-H-DR-001 included in Appendix 1 is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £163,394.

1. Summary

The report seeks scheme approval to construct a new signalised Puffin crossing on the B3192 Higher Exeter Road, Teignmouth. The proposed scheme will provide a dedicated pedestrian crossing facility serving Hazeldown Primary School, future development and the wider community.

2. Introduction

The proposed Puffin crossing is located at a school crossing patrol (SCP) site. It has only been possible to staff this SCP site under a temporary contract since September 2021. Prior to this the site was not staffed for over five years, during which time no applications for the vacancy were received.

A school crossing patrol (SCP) road safety audit has previously identified the site as high-risk. The current patrol staff has reported numerous incidents and near misses since September 2021 and overgrown vegetation on private land is a recuring issue, frequently obscuring the warning Wig Wags lights on the inbound approach to the crossing point.

The site has been identified through SCARF with speeding traffic and during a visit by the Police in November 2020, 70 speeding offences were recorded.

The recent local collision history includes a fatal collision involving a motorcyclist approx. 380 metres to the north of the site (September 2020) and a serious (June 2020), and slight collision (June 2021) to the south of the site. The serious and slight collisions were approx. 600 metres from the crossing point and took place at the end of the school travel time window.

A signalised crossing was previously identified to be delivered as a planning commitment for a nearby development; however the proposed development has not progressed for a number of years. Due to the high risk road environment at this site it has been recommended that a controlled Puffin crossing facility is progressed at the earliest opportunity as a school pedestrian safety improvement measure.

3. Proposal

The scheme shown on plan 70099558-WSP-H-DR-001 included in Appendix 1 incorporates a new signalised Puffin crossing located between Maudlin Drive and Raleigh Road. It includes High Friction Surfacing (HFS). The scheme retains the central pedestrian refuge with the addition of push button lights in the event of any pedestrians not being able to make the crossing during a single phase. The addition of Zig Zag markings on both sides of the crossing would enable Civil Enforcement to take measures against inconsiderate parent parking causing visibility issues, which have been regularly identified by the SCP and supervisor.

Subject to scheme approval, it is intended that construction can take place over the summer holiday period of 2023 to ready for the start of the September term.

4. Options/Alternatives

Taking into account the junctions and desire lines to the school, alternative crossing locations would not address the crossing demand and current safety issues for the school.

The option to continue to wait for a crossing facility to be delivered through development has been considered. The risk to current SCP staff and the risk to vulnerable road users should the site no longer be able to be staffed has recommended that this site be prioritised for upgrade.

5. Consultations

Consultation has been undertaken with the local County Councillor and the school. The proposal of a crossing here will be subject to a public notice and advertisement.

6. Financial Considerations

The estimated scheme cost is £163,394. The estimate includes a £33,000 allowance for contingencies and inflation. It is based on the assumption that the majority of works can be undertaken between 09:30 – 15:30 with the carriageway resurfacing and HFS work being undertaken overnight. It is proposed the scheme will be funded through the Local Transport Plan. Integrated Block, School Safety Schemes element of the 2022/23-2023/24 Transport Capital Programme.

7. Legal Considerations

To introduce a new or amended pedestrian crossing a public notice will be required to be advertised in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Modifications to existing waiting restrictions will require changes to a Traffic Regulation Order. When making a Traffic Regulation Order it is the County Councils responsibility to ensure that all relevant legislation is complied with. This includes Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act that states that it is the duty of a local authority, so far as practicable, secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of traffic and provision of parking facilities.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations

By promoting sustainable alternatives to travel by car, the proposal will have a minor but positive effect on vehicle emissions and the environment.

9. Equality Considerations

No new policies are being recommended in this report and therefore an individual Equality Impact and Needs Assessment for the scheme is not considered necessary. The proposed scheme helps to enable pedestrians with a wide range of abilities and confidence levels to travel to access school and other local facilities.

10. Risk Management Considerations

A signalised Puffin crossing will have ongoing maintenance costs for Devon County Council. These would be off set against the costs of recruitment, training, PPE provision and salary of an SCP. The scheme has gone through a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit.

11. Public Health Impact

Improved crossing facilities will have a positive effect on promoting healthy, sustainable, and independent travel within the community.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

It is recommended that the scheme be approved for construction to both support the school safety and to promote sustainable, healthy, and independent travel choices.

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Electoral Division: Teignmouth

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper Date File Ref.

Nil

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Appendix 1 To CET/22/85

