

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and
Performance Board

DATE: 20th June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Outcome of Consultation
Review Panel Meetings

WARDS: Birchfield & Castlefields

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report the outcome of two Consultation Review Panel meetings over the 2006/07 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In accordance with Council policy, Consultation Review Panel (CRP) meetings have been held to review two schemes on which public consultation exercises have been held during the 2006/7 financial year.
- 3.2 **Halton Village, Runcorn - Traffic Calming.** In March and May 2006 written complaints were received from residents of Norton Lane and Stockham Lane, Halton Village, requesting traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds in the area. Previously, separate complaints had been lodged concerning damage to property at the Norton Lane/Castlefields Avenue South junction, allegedly caused by drivers approaching the junction at excessive speed and losing control. Norton Lane had hosted two traffic incidents involving injury in the previous three years.
- 3.3 A Local Transport Plan funded traffic calming scheme was designed to address the immediate issues, but given the relatively low cost of such work and the value of prevention of the casualties to be saved, the project was extended to offer calming over the whole of the Stockham Lane, Norton Lane and Norton view residential rectangle. Drg. no. 8920 (attached) refers. Consultation was undertaken with affected residents.
- 3.4 The consultation indicated support for the project in Norton Lane, mixed views in Stockham Lane and a majority against in Norton View. At the subsequent CRP meeting (minutes in Appendix 'A') it was agreed that the scheme be progressed in modified form over Norton Lane and Stockham Lane but that the Norton View section should be deleted. It

was also recommended that investigation be undertaken with a view to extending the scheme adjacent to St. Mary's Primary School in Castlefield Avenue South. This work is now in progress.

- 3.5 The recommendations have been incorporated into the scheme design and implementation will take place during the current financial year. Funding will be via the Local Transport Plan Local Safety Scheme budget.
- 3.6 **Birchfield Road, Widnes – Quality Transport Corridor.** This scheme was designed in consultation with the Police, bus operators and local schools. The design included the realignment of Victoria Avenue and the relocation of the pedestrian crossing and linking of existing cycleway provisions by widening the footpath and installing a combined use pathway. Other elements of the project included treatment of bus stops with bus border kerbs and associated road markings, the closing of bus lay-bys and road markings to narrow a section of carriageway fronting Wade Deacon School to slow traffic and give the appearance of entering a school zone. Drg. no. 8329/F/002 refers and will be displayed at the meeting.
- 3.7 A consultation exercise was carried out on the scheme to include as many interested parties as possible. The consultation exercise consisted of the following:
 - Pre consultation meeting was held 27 November 2006 with Councillors from the affected Wards – Kingsway, Birchfield, Farnworth and Appleton prior to public consultation.
 - A public consultation took place at Wade Deacon High School – 5 December 2006 between 2 pm – 7pm, with all the surrounding residents and businesses being invited via leaflet drop. Questionnaires were issued to all who attended.
 - The bike users group.
- 3.8 All questionnaires received were analysed and reported to a CRP held on 15 January 2007 attended by Councillors Dave Leadbetter and Ann Gerrard, senior officers and Cheshire Police. (Minutes in Appendix 'B'.) The following revisions to the scheme were recommended by the CRP:
 - Remove road markings narrowing road at Wade Deacon following comments regarding safety issues from the bike users group.
 - Bus lay-bys to remain open but lined with clearway marking prohibiting parking other than buses.
 - Approval of relocated crossing and conversion into a Toucan crossing. Properties immediately affected may object to the position but at the CRP the elected members and the Police felt this was the best position for a road crossing to serve the schools and park and felt it was worth pursuing.
- 3.9 These recommendations have been incorporated into the scheme design. Implementation is programmed for July/August 2007 to coincide

with the school holiday period. Funding will be via the Local Transport Plan Quality Transport Corridor budget.

4.0 POLICY, RISK, FINANCIAL, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

5.1 **Halton View, Runcorn.** (Appendix 'A') Background information held in the Traffic Management Section, Environment, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW. Contact: Jo Brussels

5.2 **Birchfield Road, Widnes.** (Appendix 'B') Background information held in the Highways Capital Section, Environment, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW. Contact: Debbie Cragg