

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

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**WARD(S):** All Wards

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

#### **TRANSPORT ISSUES**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update and the progress made on transport projects over the past year.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Panel is requested to note the information provided.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Priorities:

- **Health:** Providing transport facilities that ensure residents can access the health services they need.
- **Economy and Skills:** Continue to provide residents with access to essential services by improving connections and journey times between work, home, leisure, school and making alternatives to the car more attractive.
- **Regeneration and Environment:** Improving facilities and access to bus services to increase the use of sustainable form of transport.
- **Housing:** Improved public transport links to the area, with quicker journey times for the bus routes serving the area and giving greater choices for residents as to where they can live and access work an facilities.
- **Safer Communities:** Reduced traffic congestion and improved safety around junctions to improve the environment for residents.

Cross-Cutting themes:

Improving the image of the town: By enhancing the sustainable transport links to Heathrow Airport and beyond, with the reduction in journey times of local bus services. Increasing the number of new businesses setting up in the town by offering parking opportunities and providing safer options for our residents who make the daily commute through and to Slough.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay.

By improving access to Heathrow Airport from Slough Trading Estate through alternative forms of sustainable transport in this instance buses, with the journey times reduced to appeal to more commuters.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

No financial implications.

(b) Risk Management

There are no reported risks associated with this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an EIA as this report is to provide members on an update on current services and projects within the transport section.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Brands Hill – update

The NCS Scrutiny Panel received a report on the decisions made to create the present road layout. The full discussion on the matter is recorded in the minutes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

5.2 The Panel has since requested an update on collisions covering the area; officers can report that there have been eight recorded collisions in the past two years all of which were recorded as “slight”.

5.3 In terms of contributing factors, the records (Stats 19) do not indicate that the road layout played a part in the collisions.

5.4 The data to date shows that since the scheme was completed there have been 8 collisions which is a decrease on previous years. Between 2011 and 2013, 14 collisions took place, one of which was a serious.

5.5 Since June 2015 the council has made further modifications to the A4 by improving the road markings on the A4 to make it clearer and erected lane designation signs to assist drivers as to which lane they should be driving in.

## 5.6 Parking facilities – disabled and elderly residents

The current policy for disabled bays provides for bays associated with businesses and/or GP surgeries etc. However, just like all disabled bays the council cannot allocate bays to an individual. The rules for using these bays are that a valid Blue Badge is displayed; any vehicle not displaying a blue badge will be issued with a penalty charge notice.

## 5.7 Yellow line parking – Reasons for delays

Due to resource issues and the roll out of the Pavement Parking scheme there has been a delay in the rolling out of the waiting restriction list. However, we were able to merge all waiting restriction requests from 2013, 2014 & 2015 with a total of 100 locations and went out to consultation 18<sup>th</sup> December, the closing date was 21<sup>st</sup> January '16. We allowed 2- 4 weeks to collate all representations, including writing to residents, make any amendments to traffic orders and the sign off of the significant decision. The order was sealed on 11<sup>th</sup> March and passed to Amey's to implement. The aim is that as the restrictions go down they will become enforceable, however we have allowed time as it is weather permitting. All streets should be enforceable by March/April '16.

## 5.8 Traffic wardens geographical spread

Parking restrictions in Slough have increased dramatically over the last 5 years and with the introduction of the Pavement Parking scheme, the enforcement of these restrictions is paramount for the scheme to be effective. In May 2015 a review was carried out by the parking team and Vinci Park Limited of the ongoing deployment activities, this included looking at the following areas:

- i. Penalty Charge Notice issue by time and location.
- ii. Penalty Charge Notice issue by day of the week.
- iii. Penalty charge Notice issue by location (separately).
- iv. Time taken to cover beats.
- v. Coverage of current beats
- vi. Coverage of new schemes
- vii. Type of contravention by time and location.

It was found that the borough was not getting adequate enforcement due to the new restrictions in place so adjustments were made.

5.9 In October 2015 a report on geographical spread was issued, this paper indicated the locations and frequency of patrols/beats and has now been in practice for just under a year and is working well. On going reviews will still take place with the information continuing to support the councils aims and objectives and will help form the next contract in 2018/19.

## 5.10 Parking Strategy

The new strategy has been delayed due to some changes but will be brought to scrutiny at a later date.

5.11 Vehicle Activated Sings (VAS)

There has been a delay in the procurement of the VAS due to the framework contract the council has brought in. The result of the delay has meant that officers have had to undertake a separate procurement process (3 quotes). Officers are now in a position to place the orders and delivery will be in the next few weeks.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

NCS Scrutiny Panel has reviewed the following items mentioned above: Brands Hill, Geographical Spread of Enforcement and Parking Standards.

7. **Conclusion**

The Panel is requested to note the progress the council has made on the various items covered in this report.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Disabled Bay policy

9. **Background Papers**

None