

Your Equality Impact Assessment Summary - CCC553590284 - Wheatsheaf Crossroads

CCC553590284

Directorate: Place and Sustainability

Service: Project Delivery

Team: Project Management

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Service: Project Delivery

Team: Project Management

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Proposal being assessed: Wheatsheaf Crossroads Junction Improvement Scheme

Business plan proposal number: N/A

Key service delivery objectives and outcomes : To improve road safety in Cambridgeshire by implementing improvements to junctions to reduce the number of collisions resulting in injury.

What is the proposal: The B1040 Somersham Road/Wheatsheaf Road/Bluntisham Heath Road junction has a significant record of injury collisions over the last few years. It is currently controlled by vehicles on the side roads being required to give way to traffic on the main road the B1040 Somersham Road. 1.1 The junction, known as Wheatsheaf Crossroads, saw 20 injury collisions between January 2015 and December 2020 including 2 fatal and 2 serious injury collisions. The fatal and serious collisions all occurred in 2019 and 2020 and the Council has been named as an interested party in the inquest into the 2020 fatality by the Coroner. Improvements to lining and road marking were installed in 2016. Since the start of 2021 to August 2023 there have been a further 7 injury collisions, 1 of these being serious in March 2022. In September 2021 the decision was made by the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee that a junction improvement scheme should be designed and implemented to introduce a system of traffic signals to control vehicles movements through the junction. The scheme detailed design has been completed. Additional land is needed to construct the scheme and this is being acquired through negotiation and legal agreement with the adjacent farm estate. The junction is being widened to the West so that space can be provided for the vehicles that need to queue at the proposed traffic signals. There are no pedestrian footways at the junction due to the rural nature of the location. Given the lack of existing footways there is no provision in the new scheme layout for pedestrian crossing facilities as the junction is not suitable for pedestrians and the intention is not to encourage pedestrians in that location. The scheme will improve road safety by controlling vehicle movements through the junction. As the scheme is introducing stop lines with traffic signals it is

anticipated that the occurrence of shunt type accidents might increase. However, this is weighted against the benefits of introducing the traffic signals to discourage the current pattern of drivers ignoring the give way signs and lines.

What information did you use to assess who would be affected by this proposal?: The Committee report presented to Highways and Transport Committee in September 2021 set out the current poor safety record and the need for the junction improvement. On hearing the views from the local County Council Member and a local community group concerned about road safety the Highways and Transport Committee decided that a traffic signal controlled junction layout was the preferred solution. As noted above the proposal will impact drivers and passengers of vehicles through the junction and will improve road safety. The adjacent farmland estate will be impacted but they will benefit from the negotiated settlement and legal agreement for the County Council to purchase the land required for the new junction. In seeking to improve the junction by changing the layout to be controlled by traffic signals it will help to address the current poor accident record noted above. This includes seeking to prevent further fatal and serious injury collisions at the junction.

Are there any gaps in the information you used to assess who would be affected by this proposal?:
No

Does the proposal cover: All service users/customers/service provision in specific areas/for specific categories of user

Which particular employee groups/service user groups will be affected by this proposal?: Drivers and passengers in vehicles which are driven through the proposed junction.

Does the proposal relate to the equality objectives set by the Council's Single Equality Strategy?:
Yes

Will people with particular protected characteristics or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities be over/under represented in affected groups: About in line with the population

Does the proposal relate to services that have been identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics/who are experiencing socio-economic inequalities?: No

Does the proposal relate to an area with known inequalities?: No

What is the significance of the impact on affected persons?: All drivers and passengers in vehicles which travel through the new junction will benefit on balance from the anticipated improvement in road safety.

Category of the work being planned: Project

Is it foreseeable that people from any protected characteristic group(s) or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities will be impacted by the implementation of this proposal (including during the change management process)?: No

Age: The proposal has no impact on age as whilst vehicle drivers have to age qualify to hold a valid driving licence there is no limitation on the age of the passengers in a vehicle.

Disability: The proposal has no impact on disability. There are no existing footways or crossing places at the junction. This is because the junction is in a very rural location. Since there are no

existing facilities for pedestrians at the junction the Principal Designer (Milestone) has determined that pedestrian facilities should not be provided in the new layout. This is appropriate because this is not a location where pedestrians should be encouraged. The measures being implemented are to control the movement of vehicles through the junction to avoid the previous pattern of accidents from drivers ignoring the give way signs and lines on the side road approaches to the junction.

Gender reassignment:

The proposal has no impact on gender reassignment.

Marriage and civil partnership: The proposal has no impact on marriage and civil partnership.

Pregnancy and maternity: The proposal has no impact on pregnancy and maternity.

Race: The proposal has no impact on race.

Religion or belief (including no belief): The proposal has no impact on religion or belief (including no belief).

Sex: The proposal has no impact on sex.

Sexual orientation: The proposal has no impact on sexual orientation.

Socio-economic inequalities: The proposal has no impact on Socio-economic inequalities.

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Confirmation: I confirm that this HoS is correct

Status: Approved