

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - CCC585465908

Directorate: Place and Sustainability

Service: Project Delivery

Team: PD - General

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Service: Project Delivery

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Proposal being assessed: Puddock Road Safety Scheme

Business plan proposal number: Cambridgeshire County Council

Key service delivery objectives and outcomes : The key objective is to improve road safety in Cambridgeshire by implementing measures to reduce the number of collisions resulting in injury on Puddock Road. The 2.5km single-track stretch of Puddock Road heading south from Forty Foot Bank has seen 4 fatal incidents in recent years where a vehicle left the road and entered the adjacent watercourse. Funding has been allocated for a road safety scheme to implement improvements along a stretch of Puddock Road from Forty Foot Bank to Ramsey Hollow. The Puddock Road safety scheme supports the Council's ambition to make travel across the county safer. The scheme forms part of the road safety programme with an overarching aim to make safety improvements to the road to reduce the risk of harm to road users from road traffic collisions on this stretch, where a number of fatal incidents have occurred in recent years.

What is the proposal: As part of an initial assessment, outline options had been developed for a road safety scheme including introduction of a vehicle restraint system to prevent vehicles entering the adjacent watercourse. Additionally, a physical road closure was explored, which following informal consultation generating significant opposition was not progressed. Alternative, physical solutions were proposed to be developed in 2022/2023 using a £400k allocation made through Highways and Transport Committee on 12 July 2022. An additional £300k allocation for the scheme was approved as part of the 2023/24 Road Safety Programme by this Committee in July 2023, bringing the total allocation for the scheme to £700,000. A further detail options appraisal considered a range of measures including speed limit reduction, weight limit, improved signage, road closure and physical measures including introduction of a vehicle restraint system and widening of the existing carriageway with edge markings. It is proposed to introduce a speed reduction along a section of Puddock Road, and to apply for an access only order. These

measures will reduce the number of vehicles using the carriageway to very local users only.

What information did you use to assess who would be affected by this proposal?:The speed reduction and potential closure for access only along a stretch of Puddock Road has been informed by accident and speed data. Speed data collected for a period in July 2020 showed that the average daily vehicle count was 413, of which 15.7% were Light Goods Vehicles. The accident data along this section of highway, including 4 fatal accidents between 2016 and 2020, has necessitated action being taken to reduce risk of accidents along Puddock Road between Forty Foot Bank and Ramsey Hollow.

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?: The proposal will impact residents and businesses along Puddock Road and drivers accessing routes via Puddock Road. Residents and businesses will be able to have continued access to property along Puddock Road if a proposed access only order is introduced, however, through traffic would no longer be permitted. All users will be affected by the reduction in speed limit. An access only order is subject to further information consultation followed by a statutory consultation as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process. The overall objective of the scheme is to improve safety for all users travelling along Puddock Road.

Does the proposal relate to the equality objectives set by the Council's EDI 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?:The recommended action to improve safety along Puddock Road is to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 30mph. Subject to further consultation, the proposal to introduce a closure allowing access only to Puddock Road will be enforced through cameras. The County Council is seeking to gain the appropriate powers which would be transferred to the enforcing authority which is anticipated to be Huntingdonshire District Council. Further discussions will be held with Huntingdonshire District Council officers so that arrangements for maintenance and enforcement systems including the permitting of permitted vehicles can be agreed when the powers become available. Drivers and passengers in vehicles which travel along the affected section of Puddock Road 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 proposed measures will apply to all drivers and their passengers travelling along the relevant section of Puddock Road irrespective of age of either driver, subject to them holding the appropriate licence, or passenger.

Disability: The proposal is not expected to have impact on those with disabilities. The road is in a very rural location with no existing footways or crossings. Access to properties will be retained.

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.

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