BUDSHEAD ROAD

1. INTRODUCTION

This report seeks delegated authority to implement a new zebra crossing on Budshead Road

2. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS REQUIRED

2.1 The elements that need a Traffic Regulation Order are as follows:

There are no elements of this scheme that require a Traffic Order. However, the decision to be taken is to add a zebra crossing to Budshead Road.

3. STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Proposals

The proposals for the scheme were advertised on street, in the Herald and on the Plymouth City Council website on 12th July 2024. Details of the proposals were sent to the Councillors representing the affected wards and statutory consultees on 8th July 2024. In addition, letters were sent to approximately 600 residents and a consultation event, where Plymouth City Council officers were available to discuss the proposals, took place in Victoria Park on 20 July, 2024.

There has been a total of 7 representations received relating to the proposals. 3 were in favour of the proposals with 1 against. There were further 3 responses which were interpreted as supporting the proposals in part.

A strong theme amongst the positive comments was potential improvement of safety for pedestrians, especially for the elderly, children and disabled people (4/7). Particular negative comments expressed by the participants included: position of the proposed crossing should be changed (2/7) and the crossing is altogether unnecessary (1/7).

There are more formal consultation responses in favour of proceeding than against. Funding awarded by Active Travel England (ATE) Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF), is available to construct the scheme before 31 March 2028.

A list of the issues raised by respondents is detailed below along with Officer comments:

No	Comment	PCC response
1	'I feel this should have been brought into force a long time ago budshead Road is very dangerous. as far as I am concerned someone in the planning department wasnt wearing there thinking cap when they decided to build old Peoples bungalows offsite greatly needed as there have been approx fifty or more deaths on this road since this estate has been built I do hope this gets the approval it needs.'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. Between Jan 2020 – Dec 2024 there have been 9 collisions reported on the stretch of Budshead Road between the western junction with Taunton Avenue and Whitleigh Court, 7 slight and 2 serious. Only one of them, a slight one, involved a pedestrian. There were no fatal collisions recorded.

2	'I would like to say that a zebra crossing on Budshead Road would be a real benefit especially for people coming from the doctor's surgery and needing the chemist. Really pleased with this plan.'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process.
3	'The proposed crossing in Whitleigh Green is a great idea, especially for people using mobility scooters, like myself, and people with pushchairs and young children. I have sat waiting for a clear road or hoping someone would stop and allow me to cross, so yes it's a brilliant move for everyone. Hopefully in the near future there could be a crossing in Transit Way, as again to cross is reliant on people stopping in both directions in order for you to cross. As it is, going across walkway bridge between Whitleigh and Crownhill Road, I have to turn right to go the crossing and then travel to Transit Way junction, there isn't a crossing at the lights, and then wait and try to cross to go to Tesco and then again to do journey back to Whitleigh Green. It can be a nightmare and dangerous, for both disabled people and those with pushchairs and young children.'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. Active travel facilities on Crownhill Road or Transit Way fall outside the scope for this scheme.
4	'I think its good idea to put zebra crossing in Whitleigh Green as it should be done years ago,however location proposal may be questionable.I woul put in use existing island which is close to bus stop located on south side already build for purpose of crossing for pedestrians which makes the most sense traffic way and financial . Proposal of new location will not only need for more financing but add chaos to vehicle traffic on Budshed road as well outcoming traffic from Whileigh Green shops and estate itself. I live here for years and I can assure that my idea is the safe and efficient way to make safe this crossing go ahead .'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. The proposed location of the crossing is determined by a number of factors, but in particular the desire to provide a convenient link to the Local Centre on Whitleigh Green and doctors surgery to the south for residents approaching from both east and west. The crossing would alleviate some of the community severance created by Budshead Road. There is currently a dropped kerb crossing point at the proposed location. The visibility to the crossing point is good and because there is a single lane of traffic through the crossing in each direction, the Belisha Beacons will be very visible to drivers. Locating the crossing further southeast (at the island) would impact on the current bus stops.
5	'I think it is completely unnecessary, a waste of money, time and space. There are already pelican crossings right up and down the road and one almost directly outside of the shops. This is not needed and I have heard no one mention needing nor wanting one. The crossing facilities around Whitley green are more than adequate. Maybe you should go have a real look before wasting tax payers money on needless endeavours.'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. The funding for the scheme has been secured externally, specifically for the scheme, and it will not divert current council resources away from maintenance or other schemes. The nearest controlled crossing on Budshead Road is a zebra crossing at the junction with Kirkwall Road, over 1km southeast of the proposed crossing. In the other direction there

		is no controlled crossing facilities for the remaining length of Budshead Road (over 2km). During the recent survey 106 people were recorded crossing Budshead Road between the western junction with Whitleigh Green and the eastern junction with Taunton Avenue in the hour of 14:00-15:00 alone, including 5 push chairs and 3 mobility scooters. The proposed scheme is designed to improve safety for pedestrians, including elderly, children and people with disabilities.
6	'I am writing to you to urge funding for and the construction of the proposed cycle-friendly parallel crossings at Cot Hill, Eldad Hill, Stoke, Alma Road, Budshead Road and Devonport Road. They are, it would seem, fully designed but as yet unfunded. Plymouth has an historic opportunity to lead the way in sustainable transport but only if it chooses to implement bold and imaginative measures to reduce traffic and emissions by taking cars off the road. Cycling is a big part of this. A massive concern to those who choose to cycle however is safety; all too often people choose not to cycle not because they do not wish to do so but because they feel unsafe on their bikes. These measures address very real safety concerns and should therefore proceed as soon as possible. In addition their completion would send a massive statement of intent about Plymouth's determination to move forward with more sustainable transport options. It's vital therefore these proposals proceed as soon as possible. […] 'As a resident of Plymouth who loves cycling I would absolutely say that pedestrianisation, cycling and effective public transportation need to be at the heart of a sustainable transport strategy for Plymouth going forward.'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. Crossing proposed on Budshead Road is a Zebra crossing without a parallel cycle crossing. In accordance with The Highway Code cyclists will need to dismount and wheel their cycle across. The width of the current shared infrastructure connecting to the proposed crossing is too narrow to accommodate a parallel crossing to an LTN 1/20 standard. Additionally, there is no cycling facilities to the north of the proposed scheme that a cycle crossing could connect to.
7	'As residents of Lewes Gardens, my partner and I have no objections; in fact, we think it is a good idea. However, might we suggest a more pressing location for a crossing on Budshead Road, one where there are currently no islands or crossings at all, and which is on a major walking route for both primary and secondary schools [between Biggin Hill and Milford Lane].'	The comments were logged and considered as part of the final decision-making process. The proposed location of the crossing is determined by a number of factors, but in particular the desire to provide a convenient link to the Local Centre on Whitleigh Green and doctors surgery to the south for residents approaching from both east and west. The crossing would alleviate some of the community severance created by Budshead Road.

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the proposals are implemented as advertised.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The lawful implications and consequences of the proposal have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report.

When considering whether to make a traffic order it is the Council's responsibility to ensure that all relevant legislation is complied with. This includes Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) that sets out that it is the duty of a local authority, so far as practicable subject to certain matters, to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. It is considered that the proposals comply with Section 122 of the Act as they practically secure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic in and around Plymouth and provide for suitable and adequate associated parking facilities.