

Committee	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	26 July 2010
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Petition for the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Turkey Road, Bexhill
Purpose of Report	To consider a petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Turkey Road, Bexhill to serve pupils attending schools in the local area

RECOMMENDATION: to advise the petitioners that:

- (1.) this location meets the County Council's prequalification criteria for the provision of a pedestrian crossing, but that a detailed assessment of the priority of this scheme will be deferred pending opening of the school to ensure a fair assessment;**
 - (2.) the Director of Transport and Environment will continue to work with Children's Services to try to identify funding for a scheme at this location; and**
 - (3.) uncertainty surrounds the availability of funding in the future to support the implementation of schemes of this type.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The Government has announced that some £1.2bn of in-year savings will be found from Local Government from a combination of Specific and Area Based Grants. For Transport and Environment that has resulted in a grant cut in 2010/11, targeted at Integrated Transport and Road Safety budgets of £1.9m. Savings plans to live within the reduced budgets available were considered by Cabinet on 5 July recommending some reductions in work of this nature.

1.2 The cuts this year are a likely signal of future areas to be targeted to meet the overall national budget deficit. It is unclear as yet what funding will be available for schemes of this type in the future and the relative priority that these schemes have in achieving our road safety aims and objectives. This will be explored as part of our review of this service area.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 18 May 2010 Councillors Ensor and Hughes presented a petition to the Chairman stating:

"We, the undersigned, request URGENT action by East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council to address the dangerous crossing point at Turkey Road/Southlands Road in Bexhill, and the need for installation of a pedestrian crossing enabling safe passage of children walking to and from Bexhill High School and All Saints Primary School"

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to

address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 The County Council has received requests for a pedestrian crossing facility in Turkey Road previously and the site has been considered against the pre-qualification criteria set out in the approved policy for the provision of pedestrian crossing facilities. A one hour sample survey of vehicles and pedestrians showed that the level of demand at this location is sufficiently high for a scheme to be considered further. This is further complicated by the uncertainty around funding for such schemes which will be considered as part of the Reconciling Policy and Resources process.

3.2 A full survey of pedestrian and vehicle movements is now needed in order to determine the relative priority of this request compared with others across the County. To undertake that survey in advance of the opening of the new Bexhill High School is likely to underestimate the level of demand and it is recommended that any further assessments are deferred until the school is fully operational and the true level of traffic flows and pedestrian activity can be determined.

3.2 The Children's Services Department, who are responsible for managing the new school project, are aware of the desire for pedestrian facilities in Turkey Road. Whilst provision of a crossing in this location has not been planned as part of the current project; limited funding might be available from the remaining school project budget. Further assessment work will be required to determine the form that any crossing facility should take and the likely cost of a scheme before a final decision on funding can be taken.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Turkey Road meets the relevant prequalification criteria to be considered further for a pedestrian crossing scheme, but detailed surveys to determine its relative priority are required which should not be undertaken until the new school is fully operational. In the meantime, the possibility of funding will be explored further and, if possible, a scheme will be brought forward. This is further complicated by the uncertainty around funding for such schemes which will be considered as part of the Reconciling Policy and Resources process.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment

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Local Member: Councillors Ensor and Hughes

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

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