

**Decision Maker:** Environment Portfolio Holder

**For any pre-decision scrutiny questions by the Environment  
PDS Committee on**

**Date:** 16 June 2011

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**Title:** **ST. PHILOMENA'S SCHOOL - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**Contact Officer:** Farzaneh Ziarati, Traffic Engineer  
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**Chief Officer:** Nigel Davies, Director of Environmental Services

**Ward:** Cray Valley East

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 A request has been received from St Philomena's RC Primary School for the installation of a crossing facility outside the school.
  - 1.2 This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder for the installation of a Zebra crossing in Chelsfield Road, St Mary Cray, outside the school.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **That the Portfolio Holder agrees the plan to install a Zebra crossing on Chelsfield Road near the entrance to St Philomena's School, as illustrated in drawing labelled ESD10805-1 and explained in section 3.9 of this report.**

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
  2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment.
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost £20,000
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
  3. Budget head/performance centre: TfL LIP funding for Pedestrian Crossings and Minor Walking Schemes 2011/12
  4. Total current budget for this head: £66,330 is the uncommitted balance available
  5. Source of funding: Transport for London
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 60
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
  2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All local residents and people attending St Philomena's School.
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Two Councillors responded and are supportive of the scheme.

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 In 2010 the Council was contacted by St Philomena's RC Primary School. The school were concerned that as the Council's contractor had been unable to recruit a reliable School Crossing Patrol, parents were unwilling to allow their children to travel to school unescorted. There was a lack of certainty that support to cross Chelsfield Road would always be present.
- 3.2 The school has requested a formal crossing, either Pelican or Zebra, be installed as close to the operating location of the Patrol as possible.
- 3.3 This approach was supported by a ward Member, Cllr Fortune.
- 3.4 The site was investigated by a traffic engineer who concluded that the provision of a Zebra crossing could create a safer crossing point for local residents and pupils attending St Philomena's School. A safety audit of the site was conducted, which concluded that a Zebra crossing could be safely installed here.
- 3.5 This proposal is in line with the Council's aims of improving safety outside schools, increasing the number of pupils travelling to school by foot thus reducing traffic congestion, and also helps avoid the ongoing costs of employing a School Crossing Patrol, which is just under £5,000 p/a.
- 3.6 This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder to allow the installation of a zebra crossing in Chelsfield Road, St. Mary Cray, as shown in the plan.

#### Consultation

- 3.7 Pre-consultation documents were sent out to Ward Members inviting their comments. Two Ward Members responded and are both supportive of the scheme.
- 3.8 On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 local residents were consulted to seek their views concerning the proposal to install a Zebra crossing at this location. Twenty six questionnaires were delivered and at the date this report went to print, two responses had been received.

#### Summary of Consultation Response

No of questionnaires circulated	No of questionnaires returned	In favour	Against	Undecided
26	2	2	0	0

Comments Received	Officer's Response
Resident supportive of zebra, but concerned that zebra will encourage more people to cross near her driveway, as her wall blocks sight lines when emerging. Also, her neighbour reverses into the road where the crossing might be.	Officers will meet resident on site to look at options for improving sight lines.
School supportive of controlled crossing but would have preferred a Pelican.	Due to site restrictions (narrow footway) a Pelican cannot be installed at this location.

## Conclusion

- 3.9 It is therefore recommended that a Zebra crossing be installed in Chelsfield Road, outside St. Philomena's RC Primary School, as illustrated in ESD10805-1. Detailed design issues, such as the extent of anti-skid surface used on the approaches and the precise locations of the Belisha beacons, should be decided by the Director at the detailed design stage. Detailed design is subject to an investigation of the statutory utilities under the footway.

## **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Policy T5 of the Unitary Development Plan states: "The Council will seek to improve the environmental quality, capacity and safety of local roads where appropriate, either by minor improvement or suitable traffic management schemes".
- 4.2 In "Building a Better Bromley 2020 Vision – Quality Environment", two stated issues to be tackled are: (i) Promoting safe motoring; and (ii) Improving the road network for all users.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of this scheme is £20,000 and will be funded from the TfL LIP funding for Pedestrian Crossings and Minor Walking Schemes 2011/12, which has an uncommitted balance of £66,330. A Traffic Management Order will be required, but to minimise the financial impact the cost will be divided between this and other current schemes requiring Orders.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

A Traffic Management Order will be required under Section 9 of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Consultation document filed in Traffic and Highways Office, St Blaise Building