

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE : **Environment, Planning and Infrastructure**

DATE: **11th September 2012**

DIRECTOR: **Gordon McIntosh**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Notice of Motion from Councillor Malone – “To instruct the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to support the request by the International School of Aberdeen and install a safe pedestrian crossing similar to other crossings on North Deeside Road at the entrance of the School. At present there is no safe crossing and pupils and community members must negotiate a very busy road.”**

REPORT NUMBER: **EPI/12/162**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This is a background report which responds to Councillor Malone’s notice of motion “to instruct the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to support the request by the International School of Aberdeen and install a safe pedestrian crossing similar to other crossings on North Deeside Road at the entrance of the School. At present there is no safe crossing and pupils and community members must negotiate a very busy road”.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 There are no recommendations at this stage.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The International School of Aberdeen has informally intimated that they are willing to finance any proposal that is accepted by Aberdeen City Council.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 The content of the report meets with the local Community Plan objectives to continually improve road safety and maximize accessibility for pedestrians and all modes of transport.
- 4.2 The proposals are in line with the Council's Transportation Strategy to improve safety for all road users by continuing to reduce the number of casualties in traffic collisions.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising from this report

6. REPORT

- 6.1 At its meeting on 13th June 2012 full Council considered a motion raised by Councillor Malone "to instruct the Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to support the request by the International School of Aberdeen (ISA) and install a safe pedestrian crossing similar to other crossings on North Deeside Road at the entrance of the School. At present there is no safe crossing and pupils and community members must negotiate a very busy road"
- 6.2 Council officers have been in discussions with the International School of Aberdeen for the previous 18 months to bring forward a scheme to enhance pedestrian safety at this location, and these discussions are still in progress.
- 6.3 This issue originates from the Planning Application for the relocation of the school.
- 6.4 A Transportation Statement was submitted in support of the application with regard to the impact the development was likely to have on the local roads network.
- 6.5 Within this statement it was indicated that, at that time, the vast majority of the pupils were taken to the school by buses provided by the school that the majority of the remainder travelled by car. In short only 1% of pupils cycled/walked to school and when school staff were included the figure rose to 2% of daily visits.
- 6.6 It was indicated that this bus service would continue after the move and that the travel split would remain.

- 6.7** The proposal in the Planning Application was approved on the information submitted and did not include a requirement for a pedestrian facility. Had a pedestrian facility been highlighted by the schools consultants as a requirement at the planning stage then the roads mitigation necessary to support the application would have reflected this along with the conditions associated with a crossing facility.
- 6.8** Correspondence from the School's engineering/planning consultant restarted in August 2010 shortly after the new school opened, requesting that ACC consider the introduction of a pedestrian facility.
- 6.9** Initial surveys were carried out to determine the numbers of people walking and cycling to the School, and also to record the level of community usage. These surveys indicated a level well below that which would be necessary to support the introduction of a crossing facility.
- 6.10** When considering the survey results a meeting was held with the School Management, Head Teacher, their Planning/Engineering Consultant and the Council's Traffic Management Team to discuss the various options that had been suggested by the school and to rule out those that were not possible. The discussions also considered the means by which to take forward those options that had potential.
- 6.11** Various measures were discussed at length and these included, reducing the speed limit on North Deeside Road, Pelican/Puffin crossings, Zebra Crossing, Pedestrian Refuge Islands and School Crossing Patrollers.
- 6.12** Of these options only the Pedestrian Refuge Islands and installing a School Crossing Patroller were considered viable by the Traffic Management Team. It was suggested that the ISA take forward these two options for further investigation.
- 6.13** Proposals for retro-fitting a pedestrian refuge island at either side of the School entrance were submitted however, on both occasions the design fell short of the minimum standards required by the "Design Manual for Roads Bridges" and the recommendations in "The Design of Pedestrian Crossings" and "Cycling by Design".
- 6.14** The only means by which the minimum design standard could be met is through further local widening of North Deeside Road. This has been confirmed by the Construction Consent Team within the Planning and Sustainable Development Service.
- 6.15** Currently we await information from the School's consultant as to how they wish to further their application.
The School has not chosen to pursue the option of a School Crossing Patroller to date.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Consultees comments

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee
Convener: Councillor Barney Crockett –
Vice Convener: Councillor Ramsay Milne –

Councillors

Councillor Marie Boulton –
Councillor M Tauqeer Malik –
Councillor Aileen Malone -

Council Officers

Barry Jenkins, Head of Finance, Corporate Governance – *has no comments on this report*
Jane MacEachran, Head of Legal and Democratic Service -
Ciaran Monaghan, Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive -
Gordon McIntosh, Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure -
Hugh Murdoch, Head of Asset Management and Operations, E,P and I –
Margaret Bochel, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development – *agrees with the recommendations in this report*
Mike Cheyne, General Manager, Operations -
Neil Carnegie, Community Safety Manager -
Dave Young, Account Manager, Corporate Governance -
Laura Watson, Service Co-ordinator E P & I
Mark Masson, Committee Services Officer
Allison Swanson, Committee Services Officer
