

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	Monday 18 June 2018
Subject:	Heathfield Road Bus Stop, Ainsdale		
Report of:	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	Wards Affected:	Ainsdale;
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To report the results of the recent consultation exercise to consider the relocation of an existing bus stop on accessibility grounds, and to seek approval to progress the relocation of the bus stop near Heathfield Road / Georges Drive junction, Ainsdale.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that:-

- (i) The objection be noted;
- (ii) Authorise the progression of the relocation of the bus stop as detailed in paragraph 1.5 and shown in plan in Annex A
- (iii) The objector be advised accordingly.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To provide a safe and accessible bus stop for bus users adjacent to the Heathfield Road / George Drive junction, Ainsdale.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost of all implementation and administrative procedures for the relocation of the bus stop adjacent to the Heathfield Road / George Drive junction, Ainsdale amounting to approximately £10K will be funded from Merseytravel under an existing Section 278 Agreement.

(B) Capital Costs

Nil

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Will assist residents and other bus users
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted and notes the report indicates all costs associated with the relocation of the bus stop, amounting to £10,000, will be funded by Merseytravel. (FD 5127/18). As a result there are no direct financial implications for the Council.

Head of Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and has no comments on the report. (LD 4351/18)

(B) External Consultations

The proposed bus stop relocation has been consulted with local affected residents in January 2018 by post, with a 21 day objection period ending 11th February 2018.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

Contact Officer:	Andrea Robinson
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	andrea.robinson@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 There is an existing bus stop at the junction of Heathfield Road / Georges Drive, Ainsdale which serves the residents of Ainsdale and provides public transport access to Formby, Southport town centre, Crossens and Southport & Formby Hospital.
- 1.2 This bus stop has been identified by a Merseytravel access audit, which was undertaken by their Senior Access Officer, as a bus stop which is not currently safe and accessible by less able bus passengers.
- 1.3 Currently there is an existing parking bay of approximately 48 metres in length fronting businesses, which typically allows for upto 8 parked vehicles. The bus stop is currently located within this parking layby, approximately 15 metres from the southern end of the layby (nearest George Drive). Informal parking surveys have taken place at this parking layby and it is not heavily used.
- 1.4 For users of the bus services that call at this stop, they currently have to potentially pass through parked vehicles using the parking bay to access or exit the bus from the carriageway level, which is not advisable or safe, particularly for partially sighted or vulnerable pedestrians.
- 1.5 To resolve this issue and to provide a safe step free accessible boarding point for bus users Merseytravel, working in partnership with Sefton Council, has proposed to build out the footway into the parking layby. This will provide a docking point for the bus and allow installation of bus access kerbs which will allow step free access onto and from the bus. In order to achieve this, a total loss of two parking spaces will be required. The plan included in Annex A shows the proposals.
- 1.5 Consultation information was issued on 11th January 2018 to a total of 18 no. affected properties, including all the shops adjacent to the parking layby (7 no.) and the flats above the shops (7 no.) and to the 4 no. properties on the opposite side of the road to the layby.
- 1.6 The Consultation Letter consisted of a plan showing details of the scheme and a letter explaining the purpose of the proposals and seeking their views. A three week period for consultation comments was allowed. The consultation material is included in Annex A to this report.
- 1.7 The local Ward Councillors were also given the opportunity to raise queries, comments and objections, and none were received.

2.0 Consultation results

- 2.1 Out of the 18 consultation letters delivered, a total of 1 response was returned by email.

3.0 Objections

- 3.1 One objection to the proposed relocation of the bus stop was received during the objection period which expired on 2nd February 2018.
- 3.2 A copy of the objection is shown as Annex B. The name and email address has been removed for anonymity.
- 3.3 There are several bus services which travel via Heathfield Road and the most frequent operates on a 12 minute timetable during the day, with around 60 buses a day on this route. Merseytravel has noted that this stop is not heavily used, as not every bus stops here, and those that do stop do so only for a short period of time. The latest passenger figures suggest that typically 27 buses a day use the stop and 9837 passengers use this stop annually. Therefore any disruption to those trying to exit Georges Drive at the same time a bus is using the bus stop would only be inconvenienced for a short period of time, and as such the objection should be over ruled.
- 3.4 Officers from Traffic Services have been consulted on the above proposals and are in full agreement with the design, and fully support the relocation of the bus stop at Heathfield Road / Georges Drive junction, Ainsdale.

4.0 Scheme Costs

- 4.1 The cost of implementing the works is funded wholly by Merseytravel through a Section 278 Agreement which is place with Merseytravel. The cost of the works is £10,,000 and will be undertaken by Sefton Council's Term Maintenance Contractor.

5.0 Proposals

- 5.1 Under the constitution of this Committee, Members can either:-
- a) approve the scheme as proposed, or;
 - b) approve the scheme with minor amendments, or;
 - c) refer the scheme to the Cabinet Member Locality Services indicating the Committee's view on how the proposal should be progressed.
- 5.2 Given the current unsafe and inaccessible arrangement at this bus stop, it is recommended that Members over-rule the objection and approve the scheme as proposed.

Owner / Occupier
Heathfield Road
Ainsdale
Southport
PR8

Date: 11th January 2018
Our Ref: JT1028/AR

Dear Sir or Madam,

CONSULTATION FOR RELOCATION OF BUS STOP :- Heathfield Road, Ainsdale

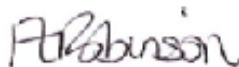
The purpose of this letter is seeking your views on a proposal by Merseytravel to relocate the existing bus stop which is currently outside the businesses on Heathfield Road to a more accessible location close by. This stop has been identified by a Merseytravel access audit which was undertaken by the Access Officer in the area and any works to the bus stop will be funded by Merseytravel.

Currently there is an existing parking bay of approximately 48 metres in length fronting these businesses which typically allows for upto 8 parked vehicles. The bus stop is currently located within this parking layby, approximately 15 metres from the southern end of the layby (nearest George Drive). For users of the bus service that calls at this stop, they currently have to potentially pass through the parking bay to access or exit the bus from the carriageway level, which is not advisable or safe, particularly for partially sighted or vulnerable pedestrians. To resolve this issue and to provide a safe accessible boarding point for bus users it is proposed to build out the footway into the parking layby to provide a docking point for the bus and to provide bus access kerbs to allow step free access onto and from the bus. In order to achieve this, a total of two parking spaces will be required. The attached plan shows the proposals.

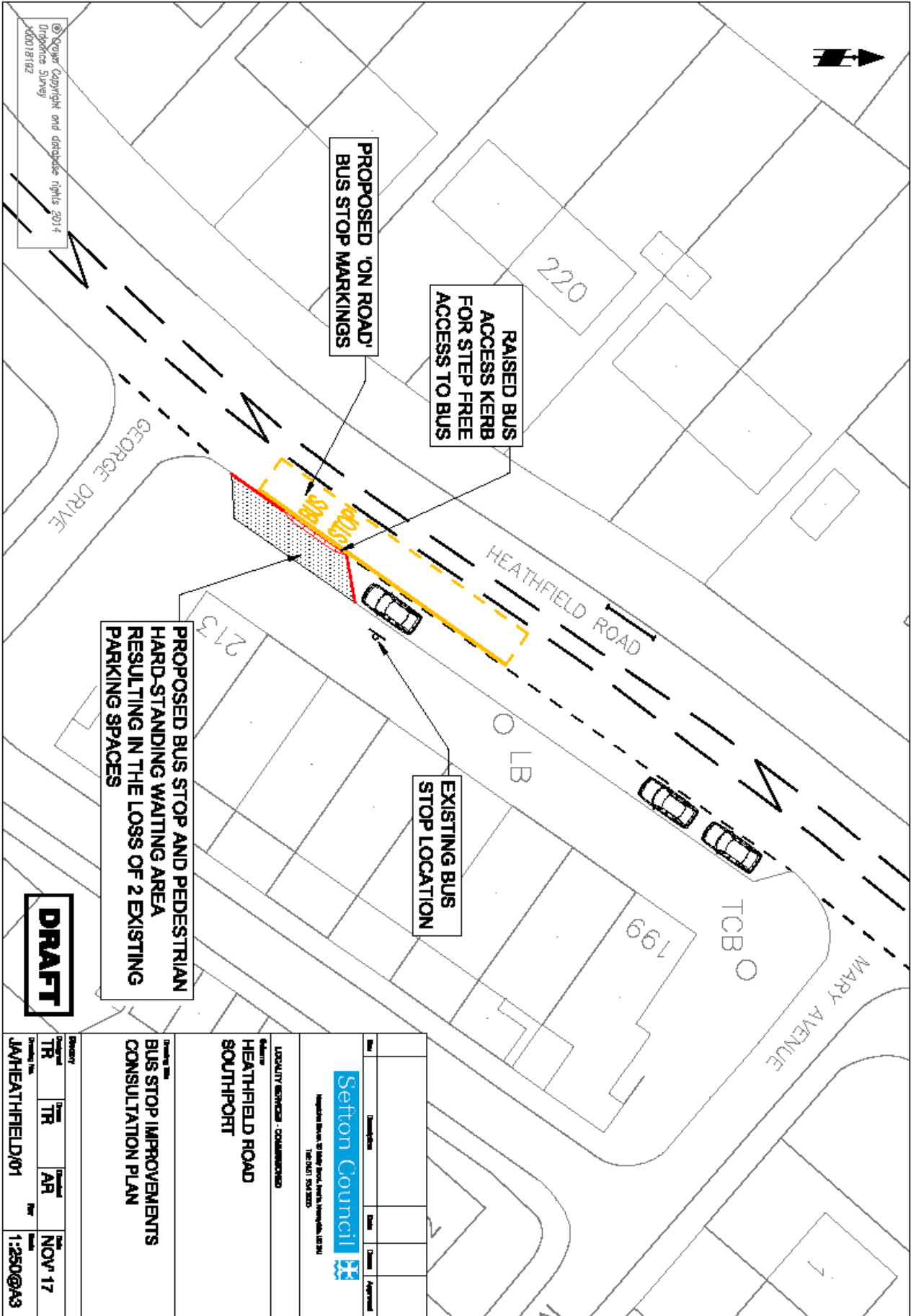
As well as consulting yourself, I have already consulted your local Ward Councillors, to seek their comments on the proposals.

I should be grateful if you would provide me with any comments on the above proposals by Friday 2nd February 2018, either by email to hdd.enquiries@sefton.gov.uk or by letter (to the address below).

Yours Faithfully,



Mrs Andrea Robinson
Highway Development & Design



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 Ordnance Survey
 X6018102

DRAFT

<p>Sefton Council Transport Services, 55 High Street, Southport, Merseyside, L35 5DU Tel: 0151 934 3200</p>			
<p>LOCALITY SERVICES - COMMENCED</p>			
<p>Site: HEATHFIELD ROAD SOUTHPORT</p>			
<p>Drawing Title: BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS CONSULTATION PLAN</p>			
<p>Drawn by: TR</p>	<p>Checked by: TR</p>	<p>Approved by: AR</p>	<p>Date: NOV 17</p>
<p>Drawn by: JW/HEATHFIELD/01</p>			<p>Date: 1:250@A3</p>

Received by Email on 15/01/2018

As I have received your letter according your proposal for new bus stop i would like to express my opinion about it.

I understand that the plan is to make bus stop safer for everybody however my concern is about other road users. I live nearby this bus stop and what i find difficult and unsafe is pulling out from George Drive onto Heathfield Road. it is very dangerous already as when bus pull over to bus stop drivers have limited vision. This is already causing lots of hazards and near accident situations.

Many times i am a witness of dangerous situations due limited vision by bus. I had couple myself.

In my opinion bus stop should be moved over somewhere safer. The accident hazard is not only dangerous for road users but for pedestrians and potentially bus costumers as well. Many people are crossing a road over there as well school kids.. By making bus stop so close to the George Drive it will be impossible to see oncoming cars. As well it might cause obstruction to the traffic and cars will have to overtake bus stopping there causing even more hazards.

I hope you will take my arguments into consideration.