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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date: 29 October 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No: ERC/RT/GMcF/18.618</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gail MacFarlane</b>	<b>Contact No: 01475 714800</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Larkfield Road/George Road, Gourock Junction Assessment</b>	

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the outcome of a Members' Working Meeting to discuss the options which came from the junction assessment report.
- 1.2 To seek approval to undertake a public consultation exercise on 4 options.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Council received a petition with 1,177 signatures to install traffic lights at the junction of Larkfield Road and George Road, Gourock. Prior to the matter being considered by the Petitions Committee, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and the Petitioners agreed that a Traffic Options Appraisal would be undertaken.
- 2.2 The Roads Service employed a consultant to carry out a transport assessment in 2019 to improve the operation of the junction.
- 2.3 The study assessed the present operation of the junction and proposed the options at paragraph 2.5 to improve traffic management at the junction,
- 2.4 The options were presented to the Environment and Regeneration Committee on 16 January 2020 when Members asked that a Members' Working Meeting be set up to explore the various options in more detail. The Members' Working Meeting took place on 12 March 2020 and Members asked questions about the various options.
- 2.5 As a result 4 options were chosen on which to seek public opinion. They are:
  1. Full signalisation of the junction;
  2. Signalised pedestrian crossings;
  3. Change of junction priority; and
  4. Uncontrolled pedestrian crossing upgrades.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 It is recommended that the Environment & Regeneration Committee;

- Gives approval to Officers undertaking a public consultation (virtual, not in person, due to risks associated with COVID-19) on the 4 options in paragraph 2.5.

**Gail MacFarlane**  
**Head of Service – Roads & Transportation**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Council received a petition with 1,177 signatures to install traffic lights at the junction of Larkfield Road and George Road, Gourrock. Prior to the matter being considered by the Petitions Committee, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and the Petitioners agreed that a Traffic Options Appraisal would be undertaken.

4.2 The Roads Service employed a consultant to carry out a transport assessment to improve the operation of the junction. The purpose of the transport assessment was to:

- Review the road safety history of the area and ascertain any potential issues at the junction, accessibility for non-motorised users including the implications for school travel, assessment of traffic volumes and vehicle operation considering peak time performance;
- Comment on the current suitability of the current junction configuration;
- Consider a range of improvement options;
- Review and evaluate challenges and benefits, likely costs and acceptability of the scheme to key stakeholders and local groups; and
- Considering the current constraints and other key factors such as accessibility, affordability and deliverability, produce a recommended option for the junction.

4.3 Following the public consultation the key issues were established as:

- Reduce traffic speed
- Reduce vehicle turning conflicts
- Increase crossing safety.

4.4 The consultant evaluated each option and discounted some that could not feasibly be delivered and this is summarised below:

- Junction signalisation;
- Signalised pedestrian crossing;
- Mini-roundabout; *discounted*
- Small conventional roundabout; *discounted*
- Priority change i.e. give George Road and Hilltop Road priority over Larkfield Road;
- Network Management (Bus and emergency access to George Road); *discounted*
- Pedestrian Crossing (raised table at crossing or zebra crossing);
- One-way System on George Road; *discounted*
- Relief Road from Larkfield Road to Drumshantie Road (one-way loop); *discounted* and
- Relief Road from Kirn Drive to Earnhill Road. *discounted*

4.5 The junction and the topography of the surrounding area is challenging as has been highlighted by the number of options that have been considered and consequently discounted because they cannot feasibly be taken forward.

4.6 Following a report to the Environment and Regeneration Committee on 16 January 2020 officers were asked to organise a Members' Working Meeting to brief members in more detail on the options outlined above.

4.7 The Members' Working Meeting took place on 12 March 2020. Officers described each of the options in detail and Members had the opportunity to ask questions. Members reduced the number of options to 4 which they believe should be subject to a further public consultation exercise. The 4 options are:

1. Full signalisation of the junction;
2. Signalised pedestrian crossings;
3. Change of junction priority; and
4. Uncontrolled pedestrian crossing upgrades.

4.8 As part of the proposed public consultation, officers propose to outline what junction improvements they would make in an ideal world and highlight to members of the public the various constraints which rule this out including the presence of an electrical substation in the northwest corner, proximity of Lambeth Walk and driveways, etc.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

#### 5.1 Financial Implications:

##### One-off costs

Cost Centre	Budget heading	Budget years	Proposed spend this report	Virement from	Other comments
	Roads and Feasibility	2020/21	£15,000		Revenue to prepare detailed design for e top two schemes. Contained within existing budget

##### Annually recurring costs:

Cost Centre	Budget heading	Budget years	Proposed spend this report	Virement from	Other comments
N/A					

### Legal

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Human Resources

5.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

### 5.4 Equalities

(a) There are no equalities implications in this report.

YES	
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

**Repopulation**

5.5 There are no repopulation implications arising from this report.

**6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on this report.

**7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Options Appraisal Report–Larkfield Road/George Road/Hilltop Road 28th November 2019
- Larkfield Road Options Study, Signals Development 14th October 2019
- Larkfield Road Options Study, Network Management Options 21st June 2019