

Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Statement of Reasons

Bath and North East Somerset Council

A37 BRISTOL ROAD, WHITCHURCH

SIGNAL CONTROLLED TOUCAN PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Proposal

To introduce a signalised pedestrian crossing with dropped kerbs and tactile paving across the A37 between Whitchurch Village and the junction with Queen Charlton Lane, shown on the attached Appendix 1 drawing as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood programme for the area.

Reasons

Funding has been secured to install a pedestrian crossing (toucan) on A37 Bristol Road, Whitchurch. Pedestrians are currently experiencing difficulties when crossing over A37 Bristol Road to reach sites such as the dental surgery, Norton Lane park and the bus stops. The proposed signal-controlled toucan pedestrian crossing would improve road safety for pedestrians, making it safer for both local children and vulnerable road users, and would improve the quality of life for local people.

A signal-controlled toucan pedestrian crossing would be the most suitable form of pedestrian facility at this location, having due regard for the number of pedestrians, volume of traffic, topography, and character of the road.

The Council has considered article 8 within Schedule 1 to the Human Rights Act (Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence) and Protocol 1 Article 1 (Peaceful enjoyment of possessions). Both of these rights are qualified rights, and the Council does not consider that the measures proposed amount to a deprivation of possessions as the right to access property has not been extinguished. The proposals are considered to have a minimal impact on human rights. However, the Council is entitled to affect these rights where it is in accordance with the law, necessary (such as in the interests of public safety or economic well-being, to prevent disorder and crime, to protect health, or to protect the rights and freedoms of others), in pursuit of a legitimate aim and proportionate

to do so. The proposals within this report are considered to be in accordance with the law, necessary, in pursuit of a legitimate aim and proportionate.

The Council has had due regard to the needs set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. It considers that the proposal is consistent with the section 149 public sector equality duty, which it has discharged.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

This proposal is made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which under Section 23 enables local highway authorities to establish crossings for pedestrians.

In making this proposal the Council has discharged its duty under section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Council is under a duty pursuant to section 122(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) to exercise its duties under the Act (so far as practicable having regard to the subsection (2) matters), to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians).

As for the subsection 122(2) matters:

- a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises.

Comment: installing a toucan crossing in the proposed location would not cause any issues in relation to access to premises.

- b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run.

Comment: installing this facility would create a safer places for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the A37 Bristol Road (Whitchurch) and would have a positive impact on access to local amenities.

- bb) The strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy)

Comment: the proposed toucan crossing would encourage local residents to walk, wheel, and cycle for some journeys, thus reducing vehicle trips.

- c) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles.

Comment: The A37 Bristol Road (Whitchurch) is a bus route, but no significant disruption would be caused to the passage of public transport. Installing the proposed toucan crossing would create a safer place for passengers to access bus stops in the area.

- d) Any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.

Comment: N/A

Having balanced the various matters and considerations, the Council has concluded that it is appropriate to progress the proposal.

The Council has also discharged its duty under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. It has concluded that the proposal is consistent with that duty, given its other policies and objectives.

Neither section 16 nor section 122 of the 1984 Act precludes the establishment of a crossing.

Date: 11/05/2026