

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Vale Close - Footpath Improvements

Report to: (a) Heatons & Reddish Area Committee

Date: Monday, 29 July 2024

Report of: (b) Director of Place Management

Key Decision: (c) **NO / YES** (Please circle)

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Tick box)

Summary:

The report outlines the results of a Traffic Services investigation into improving a footpath on Vale Close Heaton Mersey.

Recommendation(s):

The Area Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and recommend that the Cabinet Member (Parks, Highways and Transport Services) approves the adoption of the footpath under Section 228 of the Highways Act 1980.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(d)**

Communities & Transport Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(e)**

There are none.

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Gary Kennedy
Tel: 07800 618190

'Urgent Business': (f) **YES / NO** (please circle)

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on _____ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

Vale Close Footpath Improvements

Report of the Director for Place Management

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and approve the proposed footpath improvement scheme with the intention to bring the footpath adjacent to the Crown (Public House) on the west side of Vale Close, Heaton Mersey up to adoptable standard.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Traffic Services have been made aware of concerns raised by local residents regarding the poor condition of a footway link on Vale Close, Heaton Mersey. The footpath has been eroded and the uneven surface has resulted in pedestrian trip and fall incidents.



Image 1 – footpath, view north to Didsbury Road



Image 2 – View south from the end of adopted carriageway Vale Close

- 2.2 Vale Close runs either side of The Crown public house, the western side has bollards to prevent vehicle access and is therefore most suited for pedestrians. The route is well used by pedestrians accessing local shops, schools and public transport facilities for residents of Craig Road and Valley Road and employees from Heaton Mersey Industrial Estate. The east side is a cobbled sett carriageway with no footpath provision and is accessible for motor vehicles.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Early investigation into the footpath revealed the land was unregistered, the footway was partially blocked by overgrown vegetation and the street lighting wasn't working. Following initial discussions between SMBC Highways Officer and local residents the street lighting has been repaired and vegetation trimmed back.

4. LEGAL POSITION/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 On the 19th June to 31st July 2023 notices were posted for a period of six weeks to try to establish the owner of the land as it is currently listed as unregistered, there were no responses, therefore any future works to upgrade the footpath must be carried out under Section 228 notice.
- 4.2 In order to use the s228 notice procedure to adopt the (unregistered) land the “works” that are being carried out must qualify as “street works”. This includes any works for the sewerage, levelling, paving, metalling, flagging, channelling and making good of a street, and includes the provision of proper means for lighting a street; and “paving, metalling and flagging” includes all methods of making a carriageway or footway.
- 4.3 Once these works are completed legal services can draft a notice under s228 which will need to be posted on site. The s228 notice will specify that after the expiry of one month (if no objections are received) the land in question will become adopted highway; there is no transfer of ownership, just dedication.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

- 5.1. Two feasibility designs were produced, one with tarmac infill and one to match adopted road surfacing with tegula block paving. The tarmac option was withdrawn as being unsuitable following consultation with the Conservation Officer.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 As this is only to improve surfacing not to change the layout no formal consultation has been undertaken.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Costs will be met from the 2024/2025 Road Safety budget.

8. TIMESCALES

- 7.1 If approved, construction is expected within financial year 2024/25.

8. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Equal Opportunities

- To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council’s vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

Sustainable Environment

- To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and are asked to recommend approval to adopt the footpath under Section 228 of the Highways Act 1980. This requires a specific resolution from the Highway Authority which has undertaken the street works clearly stating the intention to adopt the footpath as maintainable at public expense.
- 9.2 Subject to 9.1 above, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member (Parks, Highways and Transport Services) approves the adoption of the footpath under Section 228 of the Highways Act 1980.

Background Papers

Appendix A

F/4336/3000/001 Vale Close Footpath

Anyone wishing further information please contact Adam Meadowcroft on telephone number Tel: 0161-474-2412 or by email on adam.meadowcroft@stockport.gov.uk or Gary Kennedy on 07800618190 or gary.kennedy@stockport.gov.uk