

Local Engineering Service

1. For many years, some elements of Highways service were being delivered by a group of Engineers under a Service Level Agreement with Highways. Following the reshuffle of many services within various Directorates during year 2019, those Engineers were transferred to Highways - Inclusive Growth Directorate. A consultation exercise was conducted with all the elected Members to engage, listen and capture their views as to how this service could be reshaped to best serve our communities and elected Members at local levels. Accordingly, Local Engineering Service has been redesigned which now contains 3 area teams based in Local Offices under 3 Local Engineering Managers as shown on the attached plan and a Local Highway Services Manager. These teams provide a frontline local link for the provision of Highway services and specific advice on most highway-related matters to local residents, Councillors, MPs, businesses, community forums/groups, Emergency Services, transport operators, and other internal and external stakeholders. This service also includes the provision of school crossing patrol wardens to support schools in Birmingham. Some examples of services that Local Engineers provides are listed below:

1.1. Street furniture.

- White advisory 'H' markings, Disabled Bay advisory marking
Yellow line requests – Single or Double, School Keep Clear markings etc.
- De-cluttering and Installation of cycle stands, bins, benches, guard rails, signs, trees etc.

1.2. Traffic calming measures.

- Speed cushions, speed tables, road humps, islands and pedestrian refuges etc.
- Junction alterations or new road layouts – to change priority/reduce injury collisions.
- Introduction of Vehicle Activated Speed signs

1.3. Traffic Regulation Orders.

- Permanent and Temporary Orders for double, single yellow lines, 20mph limits/zones, speed limits and road closures for works and community street parties etc.

1.4. Pedestrian Crossing facilities.

- Dropped kerbs with tactile pavings for vulnerable pedestrians.
- Controlled/uncontrolled crossing such as: Refuges, Zebra and Toucan crossings.

1.5. Local Car Parks.

- Day to day management and maintenance of local car parks which provides parking aspirations and needs at local level.

1.6. Development and Delivery of Capital Programme

- Ward Minor Transport Measures – *to address highway issues at local level which includes provision of measures to protect verges for improved street scene.*
- Safer Routes to Schools– *to address issues in the vicinity of schools.*
- Local Safety Schemes – *to deliver safety schemes in line with the Road Safety Policy.*

1.7. Other Projects

- Develop and deliver schemes identified as part of development control or planning applications and from other internal (such as Education/Housing Department) or external stakeholders.

1.8. Other Services such as:

- Responding to Letters/Emails/Petitions from residents/Councillors/MP's and other internal and external stakeholders, advice at Ward Committees, Residents Associations/Forums/Police meetings etc., management of community events such as Fun runs, Vaisakhi, Eid, Carnivals, Processions, Remembrance Day Parades and Street Parties etc., joined up working with service provider to

deliver highway maintenance and management service, provide information on road works and road closures and advice on non-highway related matters such as housing land and local parks.

2. School Crossing Patrol Service

The School Crossing Patrol Service was transferred to Highways in year 2019 which currently sits within Local Engineering, being managed by a small team and contributes delivering overall aims and objectives of the Birmingham Road Safety Strategy. Crossing Wardens assist children and other pedestrians to help cross roads on their journey to and from schools by stopping traffic. This encourage children and their parents to walk, cycle or “scoot” to school rather than travel by car. In addition to enhancing road safety, this promotes their healthy lifestyles which helps them to arrive at school more alert and ready to learn. The wider community benefits from safer street environment in the vicinity of schools. The Crossing Wardens also support the delivery of road safety education in schools and the Young Active Travel Charitable Trust provide small grants to schools to help them develop their school travel plans to further the same objective. During school terms, the Crossing Wardens attend on site twice a day, five days a week for around 40 minutes shifts depending on the school’s requirements.