

**Proposed Upgrade of an existing Zebra Crossing, to a Signalised
(Puffin) Pedestrian Crossing,
High Road, Rayleigh in the District of Rochford**

Statement of Reasons

A request has been raised by the local Councillor on behalf of residents regarding safety concerns at the existing zebra crossing on High Road, Rayleigh. The crossing is heavily used by pedestrians throughout the day, including a significant number of unaccompanied school children travelling to and from nearby schools. Concerns have been expressed that the current zebra crossing does not provide a sufficient level of control or protection for vulnerable users.

High Road is a busy route with predictable traffic flows, particularly during peak school travel periods. The existing zebra crossing experiences high pedestrian usage, with children forming a substantial proportion of users.

Unaccompanied children are considered a vulnerable group, and national guidance recognises that signal-controlled crossings offer a higher level of safety and predictability for such users compared with zebra crossings.

A formal assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Essex County Council's (ECC) pedestrian crossing policy. The assessment produced a CDPV² value exceeding the threshold normally required to justify a signalised crossing.

This demonstrates that the location meets criteria for upgrading to a controlled facility. Upgrading to a Puffin crossing will provide a number of benefits:

Improved safety for vulnerable users, particularly unaccompanied school children, through controlled pedestrian phases. Clear signals for drivers, as the crossing will operate on traffic signals rather than driver judgement at a zebra, pedestrian detection technology, allowing efficient signal timings and reducing unnecessary delays and better visibility and compliance, especially during peak periods and in poor weather conditions. The proposed scheme will provide a safer, more controlled, and more reliable crossing environment for all users of High Road, Rayleigh.