

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
<b>DATE:</b>	15 JULY 2015	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	9
<b>TITLE:</b>	CYCLING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2015/16		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	TONY PAGE	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
<b>SERVICE:</b>	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	<b>WARDS:</b>	BOROUGH WIDE
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	CHRIS MADDOCKS	<b>TEL:</b>	0118 937 4950
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	chris.maddocks@reading.gov.uk

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Cycling Strategy 2014 forms part of the overall transport strategy for Reading as set out in the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-26. This report is the second Cycling Strategy Implementation Plan, setting the programme for 2015/16 and reviewing progress towards delivery of the strategy objectives during 2014/15.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To agree the Cycling Strategy programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 To note the progress made in delivering the Cycling Strategy during 2014/15 as outlined in Appendix B.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a statutory document setting out the Council's transport strategy and policy. Reading Borough Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for the period 2011-26 was adopted by the Council on 29 March 2011.
- 3.2 The Cycle Strategy 2014: Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers & Promoting Safer Cycling, was adopted by the Council on 19 March 2014 as a sub-strategy to the Local Transport Plan. The strategy includes detailed policies regarding the design principles for delivering infrastructure and route

improvements for cyclists on the public highway, as well as policies to encourage and promote cycling to different demographics.

- 3.3 The Cycling Strategy is aligned with wider local policy documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and Climate Change Strategy, contributing towards wider public health and air quality objectives.

#### 4. CYCLING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2015/16

- 4.1 The Cycling Strategy programme for 2015/16 is set out at **Appendix A**. The programme has been developed by assessing the level of available funding alongside an assessment methodology to prioritise projects which meet strategic objectives and deliver value for money.

- 4.2 In addition to core LTP funding the programme includes projects funded through a range of sources including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF), private sector funding (secured through section 106 and CIL contributions) and other local revenue funding sources.

- 4.3 Key delivery objectives within the programme for 2015/16 include:

- The opening of the new pedestrian cycle bridge over the River Thames, providing a new route for cyclists from Caversham to Reading Station and the town centre.
- Completion of the A33 Pinch Point Scheme, including a new raised section of cycle route R1 between Rose Kiln Lane and Bennet Road to ensure it remains usable during times of flooding.
- The opening of the Napier Road underpass to provide an additional north-south link under the Great Western railway line between Napier Road and Kenavon Drive.
- Continuing the substantial programme of cycle training courses and events including Bikeability, Bike It and the CTC cycling development programme.

- 4.4 A range of schemes and measures have been implemented over the past year, contributing towards achieving the overall objectives of the Cycling Strategy. Delivery highlights in 2014/15 as set out in **Appendix B** include:

- The launch of the ReadyBike cycle hire scheme in June 2014, consisting of 200 bikes at 29 locations.
- A range of cycle infrastructure enhancements including the shared path scheme on London Road, advisory cycle lanes on Berkeley Avenue, and cycle parking facilities provided at Reading Station, Moorlands Primary School in Tilehurst and Grace Church in Emmer Green.

- Support provided for a range of LSTF Challenge Fund projects aimed at encouraging cycling, including initiatives undertaken by Reading Bicycle Kitchen, Launch Pad and Reward Your World.
- Programme of cycle training courses and events including Bikeability, Bike It and the CTC cycling development programme.

4.5 Partnership and community engagement will be undertaken throughout 2015/16 to build on the significant consultation which was undertaken as part of the development of the Cycling Strategy in 2014. The Council will continue to work with cycling organisations including CTC and Sustrans to deliver a range of cycling initiatives, and engagement will be undertaken with local cycles through area based workshops, focused on developing deliverable scheme proposals in line with the principles established by the Cycling Strategy.

4.6 Monitoring of the strategy outcomes will be undertaken as part of the overall LTP monitoring programme. This includes analysis of census data, annual 12-hour cordon count surveys to measure mode split on all approaches into the town centre, off-carriageway cycle counters, review of accident data and ad-hoc surveys undertaken as part of scheme development work.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 The delivery of the Local Transport Plan and associated strategies helps:
- To deliver the Corporate Plan Service Priority: keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

6.1 A significant consultation was undertaken between October 2013 and January 2014 as part of the development of the Cycling Strategy. This included an online and hardcopy survey, information on the Council and Travel Reading Live websites and promotion in the local media. In addition, transport officers contacted participants of various cycle initiatives including the Workplace Cycle Challenge and delivered presentations to local groups including Neighbourhood Action Groups, the Older People's Working Group and the Transport Users Forum.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Implementation of the schemes as set out in the programme at **Appendix A** is dependent upon funding being available from a range of sources including LTP and LSTF budgets, private sector contributions and other local revenue funding sources.

## 9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Cycle Strategy 2014: Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers & Promoting Safer Cycling, Reading Borough Council, March 2014.
- 9.2 Cycling Strategy 2014 & Implementation Plan, Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee Report, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

## Appendix A: Cycle Strategy Programme 2015/16

Note: All costs are indicative and draft programme is subject to change dependent upon funding availability.

Scheme Name	LTP Action Plan Area	Timescale
A33 Pinch Point Scheme	2 - Southern	Summer 2015
Annual Resurfacing Programme	0 - All	Summer 2015
Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge over the River Thames	1 - Central 5 - Northern	Summer 2015
Traffic Signal Upgrades	Multiple Areas	Summer 2015
East Reading Transport Study	6 - Eastern 7 - Southeastern	Autumn 2015
Napier Road Underpass	6 - Eastern	Autumn 2015
ReadyBike Station Relocations	Multiple Areas	Autumn 2015
Cow Lane Bridges	4 - Western	Spring 2016
Oxford Road Transport Study	4 - Western	Spring 2016
Pocket Places	2 - Southern	Spring 2016
Bike It	0 - All	On-going - 2015/16
Bikeability	0 - All	On-going - 2015/16
CTC Development Programme	0 - All	On-going - 2015/16
Cycle Facility Improvements	Multiple Areas	On-going - 2015/16
Cycle Route Improvements	Multiple Areas	On-going - 2015/16
LED Street Lighting Upgrades	Multiple Areas	On-going - 2015/16
NCN 422 Scheme Development	Multiple Areas	On-going - 2015/16
ReadyBike Cycle Hire Scheme	Multiple Areas	On-going - 2015/16
West Reading Transport Study	3 - Southwestern	On-going - 2015/16

## Appendix B: Delivery Highlights 2014-2015

Cycling Strategy 2014: Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers & Promoting Safer Cycling	STRATEGY THEMES						Key Achievements 2014-15
	Support the local economy	Deliver wider social benefits	Reduce carbon emissions	Improve safety	Promote increased physical activity	Improve air quality and wider environmental benefits	
<b>Training &amp; Skills</b>							
Bikeability		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Programme of Bikeability cycling proficiency courses delivered to primary and secondary schools.
Adult Cycle Training		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	36 adults received cycle training promoted through workplaces, community groups and cycle initiatives.
Maintenance Sessions		✓		✓	✓		13 maintenance sessions held at workplaces, the University and community groups.
<b>Events &amp; Campaigns</b>							
Bike It	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Bike It programme delivered at primary schools including bike skills sessions and maintenance classes.
Personalised Travel Planning		✓	✓		✓	✓	Finalisation of LSTF personalised travel planning initiative delivered to workplaces and residents.
Dr Bike Sessions		✓		✓	✓		22 Dr. Bike events have been delivered at workplaces and cycle initiatives.
Bike Week	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Series of events held to promote cycling including taster sessions, free bike checks and publicity.
<b>Infrastructure</b>							
Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Construction work commenced in Autumn 2014 with completion planned for Summer 2015.
Cycle Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cycle parking facilities installed at Reading Station, Moorlands Primary and Grace Church.
Cycle Hire Scheme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ReadyBike cycle hire scheme launched in June 2014 with 200 bikes at 29 locations.
Cycle Route Enhancements	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Shared-use facilities introduced along London Road, cycle lanes delivered in Berkeley Avenue.
Traffic Calming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Proposals for a 20mph zone scheme in East Reading under development.
Street Lighting	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	50 lamps replaced to new whiter LED lighting as part of routine maintenance.
Maintenance			✓	✓	✓		Annual resurfacing and potholes repair programme undertaken including on parts of the cycle network.
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>							
Monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ongoing monitoring undertaken as part of the LTP programme including the annual cordon count.
<b>Partnership, Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>							
Engagement		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ongoing engagement through CTC cycle development programme and workshops held with local cyclists.
<b>Funding</b>							
Bikeability Grant		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Funding secured from the Department for Transport to deliver Bikeability courses throughout 2015/16.