READING BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE TO:

DATE: 3 NOVEMBER 2016 AGENDA ITEM: 16

TITLE: NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK ROUTE 422 - UPDATE

LEAD COUNCILLOR TONY PORTFOLIO: **STRATEGIC**

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING COUNCILLOR: PAGE

& TRANSPORT

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE: WARDS: SOUTHCOTE

> AND STREETCARE NORCOT

MINSTER

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines progress in developing a new National Cycle Network route funded through the LEP Growth Deal, connecting Newbury to Windsor via Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell and seeks scheme approval for the construction of Phase 1 consisting of shared-use facilities along Bath Road.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 - Kerb realignment works near New Lane Hill
- 1.3 Appendix 2 - Junction design for raised table at Honey End Lane / Bath Road
- Appendix 3 Junction design for raised table at Southcote Road / Bath Road 1.4
- 1.5 Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Report

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee gives scheme and spend approval for Phase 1 of the NCN 422 scheme.
- 2.3 That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out a statutory consultation and advertise the proposed raised tables at the junctions of Southcote Road / Bath Road and Honey End Lane / Bath Road shown in Appendix 2 and 3 in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.4 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.

2.5 That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

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.
- 3.3 The NCN 422 scheme is included within the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-19 and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan 2016-21.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 422 was granted full funding approval from the Berkshire Local Transport Body in November 2015. The cross-Berkshire cycle route between Newbury and Windsor will provide an enhanced east-west cycle facility through Reading, linking to existing cycle routes to the north and south of the borough and directly serving schools and other local facilities/services.

PHASE 1 - BATH ROAD BOROUGH BOUNDARY TO SOUTHCOTE LANE

- 4.2 Detailed design work for Phase 1 along Bath Road from the borough boundary to Southcote Lane is complete, including stage 1 and 2 road safety audits which resulted in some adjustments to the proposed scheme. The £400,000 shared-use scheme, which will be delivered by our in-house DLO and existing contractors, mainly consists of a 2.5 metre wide facility along the northern footway. Entry treatments will be used at minor junctions in the form of imprinting, previously used at the Church Street / Prospect Street junction. Shared-use tiles installed along London Road will also be used throughout, complimenting regulatory shared-use signs and official NCN branding. Traffic management will be in place to reduce any disruption to the A4 corridor and on-carriageway works carried out off-peak where possible.
- 4.3 The existing footway between the borough boundary and New Lane Hill will be widened by approximately 1.7 metres to 2.5 metres, achieved through kerb realignment illustrated in Appendix 1 and complimented by an entry treatment across New Lane Hill. The existing pedestrian refuge island and bus stop will be relocated to the east of New Lane Hill as part of Section 278 works for the Lidl development. Further investigations are also being carried out along this stretch to assess the strength of a privately-owned retaining wall parallel to the public highway.
- 4.4 Morlands Avenue to Honey End Lane will consist of entry treatments across three junctions, including accesses to/from the petrol station as well as

Advanced Stop Lines at the Burghfield Road junction. The removal of existing segregated facilities between Morlands Avenue and Honey End Lane are included to ensure consistency throughout the route. A raised table on the approach to Bath Road from Honey End Lane, included in Appendix 2, and informal crossing facility linking to Frogmore Way will enhance wider pedestrian/cycle routes.

- 4.5 Honey End Lane to approximately 40 metres east of the bus shelter will benefit from localised resurfacing and widening through the removal of existing guard railing and grass verge. Street furniture will be relocated to the back of the footway, including a number of lamp columns, to increase the effective width of the shared-use facility. Pedestrian crossings near Circuit Lane and on all arms of the Bath Road / Liebenrood Road junction will be upgraded to toucan crossings, linking directly to The Wren School and Blessed Hugh Faringdon via shared-use facilities on the southern footway.
- 4.6 Existing paving tiles from Parkside Road to Southcote Road will be replaced with asphalt reducing future maintenance and providing a smooth surface. A raised table with imprinting will be constructed across Southcote Road as set out in Appendix 3 and the existing pedestrian crossing upgraded to a toucan.
- 4.7 Detailed designs for Phase 2 from Southcote Lane to Watlington Street are inprogress, alongside conceptual designs for the final phase to the Reading / Wokingham boundary. Scheme approval for these phases will be reported at a future meeting and are expected to be constructed by the end of 2017/18.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The delivery of the new National Cycle Network route NCN 422 outlined in this report helps to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:
 - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
 - Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Statutory Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 6.2 Regular updates on the development of the NCN scheme have, and will continue, to be reported at Cycle Forum meetings.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any resultant traffic regulation order will be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

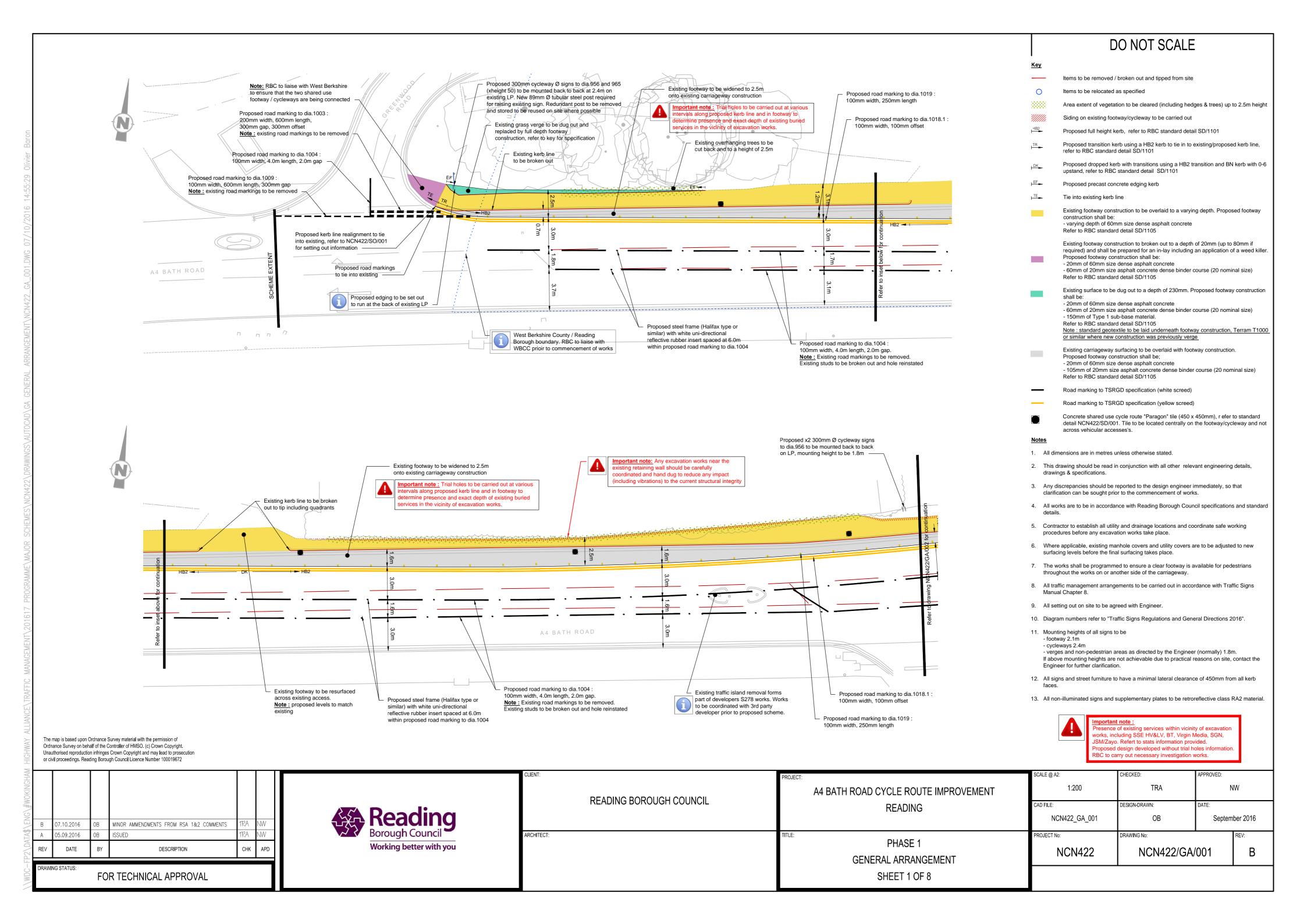
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment scoping report has been carried out on the planned National Cycle Network. The report concluded that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

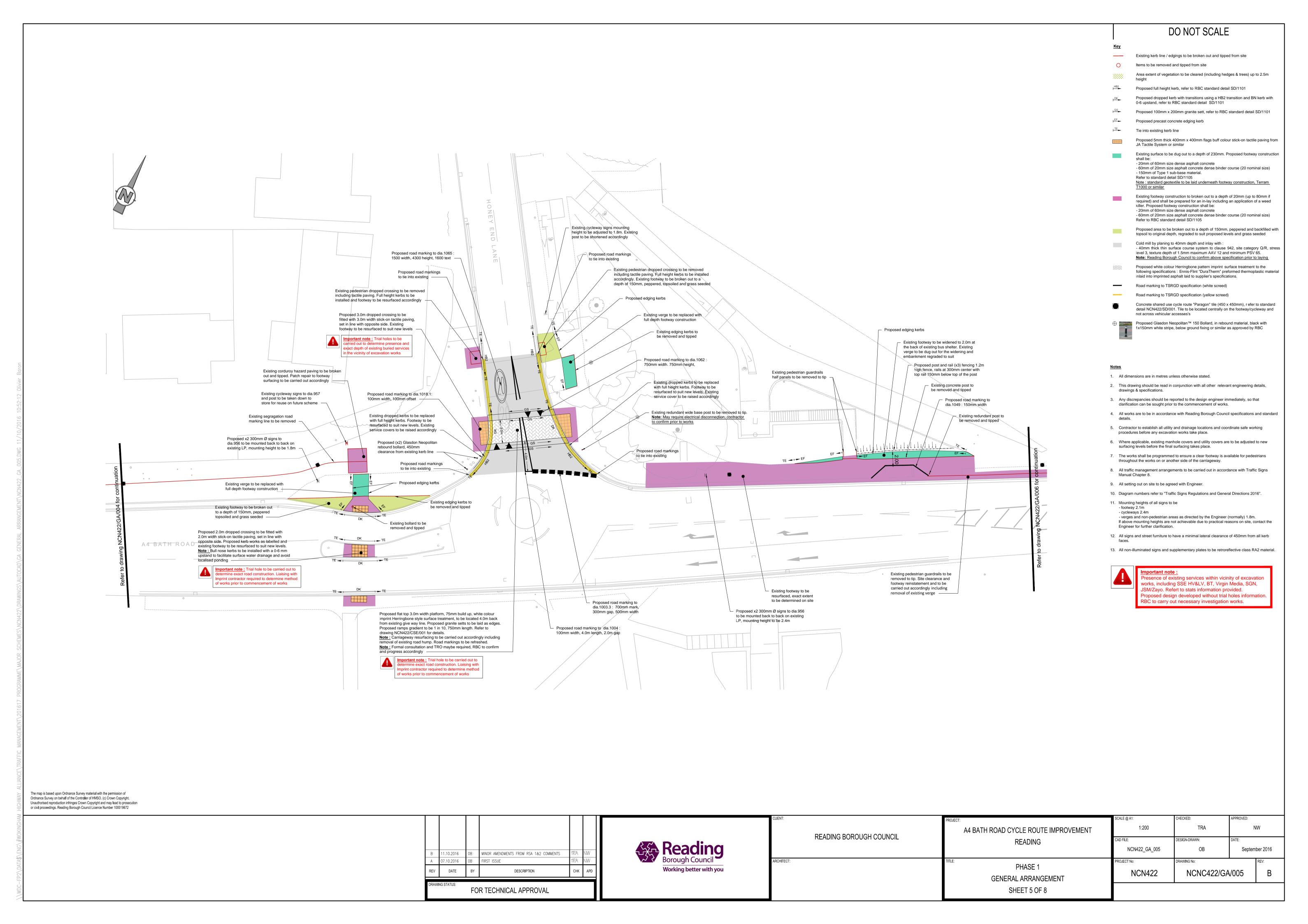
9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

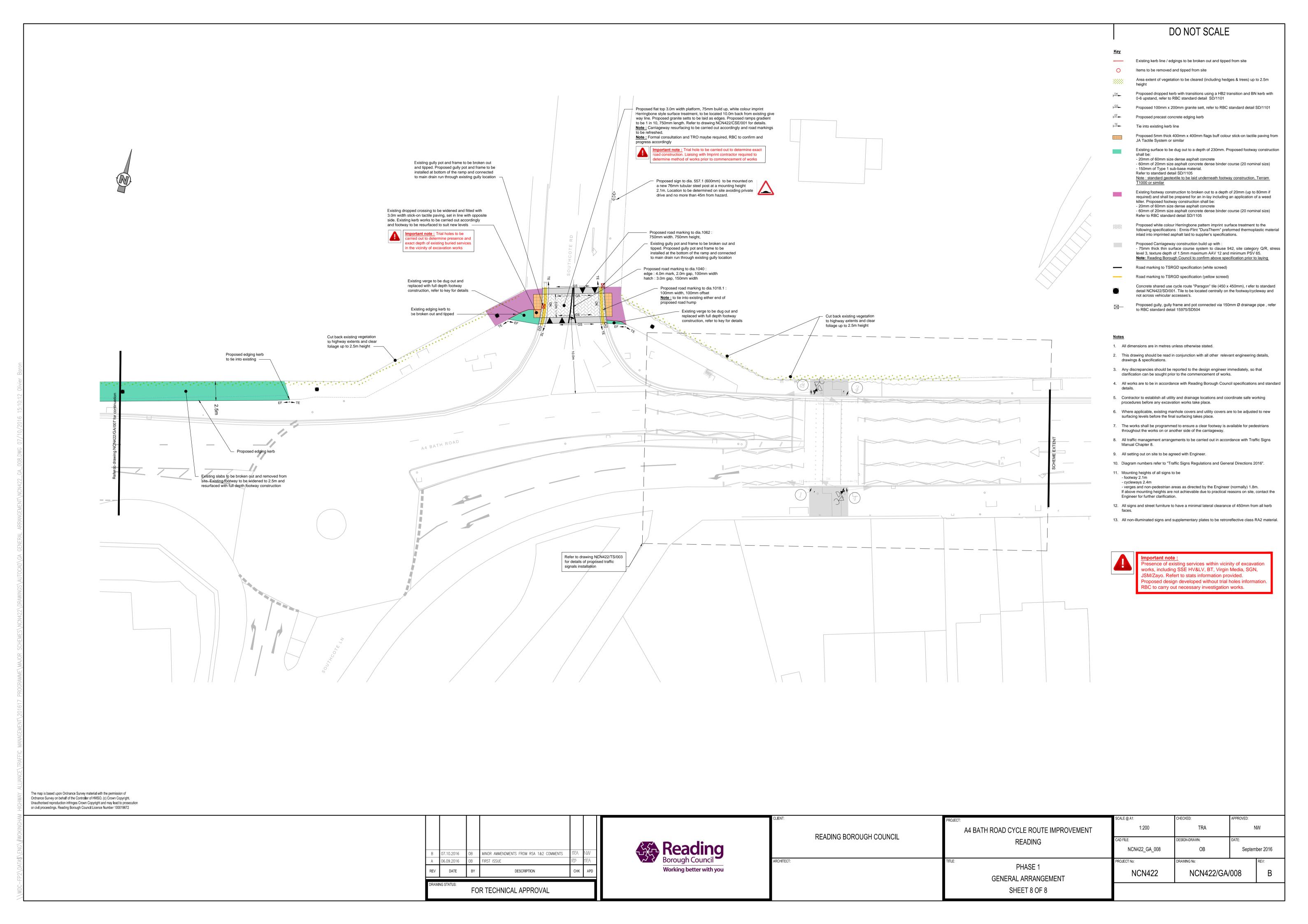
- 9.1 The costs associated with the design and delivery of the National Cycle Network Scheme Phase 1 will be met by LEP Growth Deal funding to the value for £400,000 and £50,000 Section 106 monies for the Bath Road Lidl development. These works will be largely undertaken by our in-house DLO alongside other existing contractors.
- 9.2 The pedestrian refuge island and bus stop to the east of the borough boundary will be relocated as part of planning permission granted by West Berkshire Planning Authority for the Lidl development. The design has been agreed as part of their S278 / 38 Agreement for Highway Works.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report, Major Transport & Highways Projects Update reports from November 2015 onwards.
- 10.2 NCN 422 Phase 1 Detailed Designs: http://www.reading.gov.uk/transport-schemes-and-projects.









Provide basic details

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed

Implementation of National Cycle Network Route Phase 1

Directorate: Children, Education & Early Help Services / Adult Care & Health

Services / DENS / CSS (delete as appropriate)

Service: Transportation & Streetcare

Name and job title of person doing the assessment

Name: Emma Baker

Job Title: Senior Transport Planner

Date of assessment: October 2016

Scope your proposal

What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?

The National Cycle Network Route - NCN 422 consists of a cross-Berkshire cycle route between Newbury and Windsor providing an enhanced east-west cycle facility through Reading. The enhanced facility will encourage walking and cycling by improving connectivity to existing cycle routes linking to residential areas in the north and south of the borough and directly serve local facilities/services, including three secondary schools.

This EqIA scoping report specifically relates to the proposed Phase 1 programme along Bath Road from Greenwood Road (borough boundary) to approximately 25 metres east of Southcote Road. The overall Phase 1 programme aims to convert existing footway space to shared-use by extending existing facilities along the northern footway, creating a continuous off-carriageway route from Calcot to Southcote Road. Facilities will be complimented with localised footway widening, pedestrian crossing upgrades, tactile paving and entry treatments at junctions, including the construction of two raised tables.

Further proposals linking the Phase 1 route to the town centre will be considered as part of future phases.

Who will benefit from this proposal and how?

Residents and visitors will benefit from improved pedestrian and cycle facilities connecting to a range of local facilities and services as part of the Phase 1 programme along Bath Road and other key destinations, including the town centre, business parks, the hospital and university as part of future phases and wider connections.

What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?

Phase 1 will provide an off-carriageway cycle facility along the A4 corridor between Calcot and Southcote Road where there are currently limited or no existing cycle facilities. The enhanced facilities are likely to be used by new or less confident cyclists making local journeys, including children travelling to school with parents/guardians or independently to local secondary schools.

Pedestrians will also benefit from the National Cycle Network scheme, including improved crossing facilities complimented with tactile paving, decluttering and relocating existing street furniture and upgrading existing footways to ensure they are of a sufficient width to accommodate shared-use.

Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?

The main stakeholders include residents and visitors who already walk or cycle along this busy corridor or would consider doing so if facilities were improved.

Feedback submitted through consultations seeking the views of people living, working or visiting Reading on a range of transport proposals highlights the need to improve cycle infrastructure that meets the needs of a range of cyclists. These proposals have been developed in line with design principles and policies detailed in the Cycling Strategy 2014, which included a three month consultation period, including those on shared-use facilities.

Assess whether an EqIA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; promoting equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some (racial, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religious belief) groups may be affected differently than others? (Think about your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.)

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Think about your complaints, consultation, and feedback.

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If No you **MUST** complete this statement

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because the proposals seek to enhance the local transport environment for all users undertaking local journeys, particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

A statutory consultation will be carried out for the construction of raised tables at Honey End Lane/Bath Road and Southcote Road/Bath Road as outlined in the supporting Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report dated 3 November 2016.

Signed (completing officer) Emma Baker Date October 2016

Signed (Lead Officer) Emma Baker Date October 2016