

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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| TO: | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE | | |
| DATE: | 10 JANUARY 2019 | AGENDA ITEM: | 15 |
| TITLE: | CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE | | |
| LEAD COUNCILLOR: | TONY PAGE | PORTFOLIO: | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT |
| SERVICE: | TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE | WARDS: | BOROUGHWIDE |
| LEAD OFFICER: | EMMA BAKER | TEL: | 0118 937 4881 |
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the discussions and actions from the Cycle Forum held in October 2018.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 31 October 2018 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 31 October 2018.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Reading's Cycling Strategy: 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 (LTP). 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.
- 3.2 The Local Transport Plan, under which our Cycling Strategy has been adopted, is currently being updated to reflect changes in national guidance and local priorities, including our emerging new Local Plan. As part of our revised transport strategy, we will develop new policies and schemes that support economic growth and reduce congestion through the delivery and promotion of sustainable transport measures. The draft Local Transport Plan will be available for public consultation in early 2019.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 31 October 2018 was chaired by Councillor Deborah Absolom and attended by Councillor Page, Councillor Barnett-Ward, Councillor Gittings, Reading Borough Council officers and representatives of various local groups and stakeholders. The notes of the meeting are attached.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The delivery of the cycle schemes outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Securing the economic success of Reading and provision of job opportunities
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe.

5.2 The Cycle Forum notes are a record of ongoing discussions between the Council and local user groups that record progress in delivering the Cycling Strategy and address issues raised by local representatives. The development and delivery of schemes outlined in the notes therefore contribute to the following strategic aims:

- To Develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The Cycle Forum is attended by representatives of local cycling groups and other interested parties, businesses, Councillors and Council Officers as detailed in the notes.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, 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 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the development of Council policies and schemes, such as those discussed in the Cycle Forum notes.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None at present.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Cycle Forum - Meeting Note, Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports from January 2016 onwards.

READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

Wednesday 31 October 2018, 6pm

Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading

Attendees

Cllr Deborah Absolom (Chair)
Cllr Tony Page (RBC)
Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward (RBC)
Cllr Paul Gittings (RBC)
Karen Robertson (Cycling UK - Reading)
Brian Oatway
Karen Stanbridge (University of Reading)
Brian Morley (RCC)
2x Other RCC Members
Sam Shean (RBC)
Emma Baker (RBC)
Simon Beasley (RBC)

Apologies

Cllr Ed Hopper (RBC)
RCC Member
Jules Lunness (Green Park)

1. Introductions/Apologies

Cllr Absolom welcomed attendees to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Note of the Last Meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed.

3. Presentation on Highways Maintenance

Sam Shean, Streetcare Services Manager, gave a presentation on how roads are selected for resurfacing and repair, including the methodology and prioritisation. The Forum were advised that the highways maintenance policy was in the process of being updated and would be reported to SEPT Committee in November 2018.

The Forum were informed that all correspondence reporting potential highway defects are recorded and used as evidence in the eventuality of an accident occurring. Whilst minor faults not meeting intervention levels are not currently recorded, they will be in future as the Council's approach changes to a more risk-based approach.

4. LTP4/Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan - Update

The group were informed that work had begun on updating the current Local Transport Plan, following changes to national guidance, local priorities and the development and or delivery of schemes identified within the existing plan. The draft document will be available for public consultation in early 2019.

Work on developing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan commenced in October and outputs will be shared with the Cycle Forum, and other groups, in due course.

5. NCN 422 - Update

A verbal update was given on the overall NCN programme, including updates to Phase 3 designs which are available on our website: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/article/11824/NCN-Cycle-Route-422>.

Local cycling representatives asked whether parking could be reduced on Wokingham Road and enable public highway to be reallocated as a cycle facility.

A discussion also took place on the benefits and dis-benefits of shared-use facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists. It was noted that most people within the group are supportive of the new 'share with care' signing, which has been used along sections where there is high footfall or pinch points.

ACTION - Review whether there are opportunities to remove parking along Wokingham Road between Pitcroft Road and the Three Tuns and opportunities to create improved cycle facilities.

ACTION - Circulate link to Phase 3 drawings (as above)

6. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes List

Officers updated the Forum on progress in developing and delivering schemes identified on the requested schemes list, which was followed by a discussion on possible funding sources that could be used to progress schemes, including business rate retentions and CIL.

ACTION - Investigate agreed extents of outdoor seating area along southern bank of the Oracle Shopping Centre.

ACTION - Investigate licensing around A-boards on shared-use facilities

ACTION - Clarify whether cyclists can ride in front of Reading Station and Cross St

7. Items Raised by Forum Members

a. Vastern Road Roundabout

Officers informed the Forum that a Road Safety Audit was underway for proposed changes to Vastern Road Roundabout, including spiral markings, and the outcome and drawings would be shared with the Forum when complete.

ACTION - Network Management to share drawings and outcome of Road Safety Audit

b. Cow Lane Cycling & Crossing Facilities

RCC highlighted their concerns re the location of crossing points due to the speed and volume of traffic. Officers advised the Forum that consideration is being given to lowering the speed limit of Portman Road and Cow Lane, which if taken forward, would be implemented after the completion of Network Rail works.

c. Town Centre - Cycling Update

RCC would like to see progress in delivering minor signing improvements included requested schemes list, which was followed by a discussion on funding the works through CIL.

ACTION - RCC to forward details of priority signing improvements.

ACTION - RBC to investigate and implement signing improvements through CIL.

8. Any Other Business

A discussion took place on the current layout out of Craven Road and issues with Erleigh Road. Sam Shean, Streetcare Services Manager, informed the group that repairs to Erleigh Road are planned for early 2019.

ACTION - Review lining and safety at Craven Road roundabout heading north.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged.