

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 JANUARY 2022	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - NOTES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT BOROUGHWIDE
SERVICE:	PLANNING, TRANSPORT & REGULATORY SERVICES	WARDS:	
LEAD OFFICER:	LUCY PRISMALL	TEL:	0118 937 3787
JOB TITLE:	TRANSPORT PLANNER	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:TRANSPORT@READING.GOV.UK">TRANSPORT@READING.GOV.UK</a>

#### 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 November 2021.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 18 November 2021 is appended.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 18 November 2021.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan supports the delivery of new transport infrastructure in order to manage levels of congestion, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions, whilst enabling the economic recovery and planned levels of growth in the borough and wider urban area. The Council's approved Capital Programme provides capital funding of over £40m for the projects listed in this report. Funding is provided from grants received from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Central Government, developer contributions (Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions), investment from Network Rail and GWR, and Council borrowing.

- 3.2 The Council's current Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out its transport strategy for Reading up to 2026. Consultation on a new LTP was undertaken from 4th May to 30th August 2020. The new strategy is being developed to help achieve wider objectives including the Reading 2050 Vision, the Climate Emergency and improved air quality, and to be aligned with other Council strategies including the new Local Plan and Health & Wellbeing Strategy. However, given the impacts arising from Covid-19 and the potential for significant changes in travel patterns which will require at least a year to understand, further monitoring is currently being undertaken to understand these changes to ensure the new LTP is updated with the latest information before being finalised.
- 3.3 Whilst the LTP sets the context and overarching vision for future transport provision in Reading, sub-strategies provide more detailed implementation plans for specific topics. These form the basis for preparing funding proposals to deliver key elements of each sub-strategy, including the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plan and emerging Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Electric Vehicle Strategy.

#### **4. THE PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 18 November 2021 was chaired by Councillor Paul Gittings and attended by Councillor Barnett-Ward, Cllr Whitham, 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 schemes outlined in this report will help to deliver the following priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021/22:
- Healthy Environment
  - Thriving Communities
  - Inclusive Economy
- 5.2 Full details of the Council's Corporate Plan are available on the website and include information on the projects which will deliver these priorities.
- 5.3 The Cycle Forum notes are a record of ongoing discussions between the Council and local user groups that record progress in delivering the Local Transport Plan and improvements set out in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. This forum also offers the opportunity to address issues raised by local representatives.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 6.2 There is no environmental or climate implications arising from the decision in this committee report, however the Cycle Forum minutes cover schemes that will offer benefits associated to the environment and climate. Such benefits are related to encouraging people to cycle and walk more, reduction in speed limits, reduction in motor traffic, improved air quality, enhanced public realm, and provision of new trees (where possible).

## **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 7.1 The Cycle Forum offers councillors, stakeholders and community groups direct access to officers. The forum typically involves updating members on current projects and gives members the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant for this committee report. However, the schemes discussed within the minutes are not deemed to be discriminatory to persons with protected characteristics, nor do they significantly vary existing operations. Statutory consultation processes will be conducted, where applicable, providing an opportunity for objections/support/concerns to be considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement the proposals.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications considered in relation to this committee report.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications considered in relation to this committee report.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

## READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - Microsoft Teams

### Attendees

*Apologies - Cllr Ricky Durveen*

Cllr Paul Gittings (Chair, RBC)

Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward (RBC)

Cllr Jamie Whitham (RBC)

Greg Woodford

Joe Edwards

Brian Morley

John Lee

Karen Robertson

Brian Oatway

Adrian Lawson

Martin Weller

Ian Germer

James Penman (RBC)

Lucy Prismall (RBC)

Chris Maddocks (RBC)

David Vazquez (WSP)

## **1. Welcome**

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

## **2. Active Travel Fund Update**

WSP presented detailed drawings of the proposed Shinfield Road scheme which is currently out to public consultation. LP presented on the consultation responses to date and set out the timescales for the remainder of the scheme development.

Key actions resulting from the discussion include:

- RBC/WSP (DV, LP, CM) to investigate the correct legal status of the cycle track/cycle lane
- RBC/WSP (DV, LP, CM) to ensure the designs includes sufficient signage to make it clear the cycle route is one-way (with flow).
- RBC/WSP (DV, LP, CM) to ensure that the design of the stepped cycle track allows for access on to driveways.
- RBC/WSP (DV, LP, CM) to consider priority at junctions for pedestrians and cyclists
- RBC/WSP (DV, LP, CM) to consider including coloured surfacing across side roads to highlight the continuation of the route for cyclists.
- RBC (LP, CM) to investigate with University of Reading, opportunities to provide access for cyclists through the university via Elmhurst Road point of access.

## **3. Capability Fund and Cycle Hub Update**

LP presented on the latest plans for the Capability Fund, with updates on progress including: recruitment of an active travel officer, provision of cycle training and maintenance training and updates to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to ensure compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20.

Further updates were given with regard to the cycle hub element of this fund, this included: confirmation of costs associated with rent, fit out, as well as a proposed layout for one unit.

Key actions resulting from the discussion include:

- RBC (LP, CM) to identify security costs
- RBC (LP, CM) to obtain proposed layout for a second unit
- RBC (LP, CM) to progress legal agreement with selected unit
- RBC (LP, CM) to ensure accessibility to the cycle hub is clearly signed to reduce potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians

## **4. Traffic Management Requested Schemes List**

JP presented the latest Traffic Management Requested Schemes List which was agreed by the last Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting in September 2021. JP noted that all schemes on the list are currently unfunded, however RBC continue to seek funding opportunities to ensure more schemes are progressed.

Key actions resulting from the discussion include:

- RBC (JP/SS) to review historic lists of schemes requested by the cycle forum, to ensure they are captured on the latest Traffic Management Requested Schemes List.
- RBC (JP/SS) to add investigation of 20mph scheme for the Shinfield Road area to the latest Traffic Management Requested Schemes List.
- ALL to provide details of any historic scheme request that are not included on the latest list
- RBC (JP/SS) to review information previously provided by the forum regarding amendments needed to town centre signage, and action accordingly.

## **5. AOB - All**

- Redlands Road - it was requested that RBC (JP/SS) review the provision of traffic calming measures on Redlands Road to ensure suitability for cyclists
- RBC (SS) to clarify the latest dimensions for pothole interventions