

## MEETING NOTE

### Reading Cycle Forum

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 @ 18:30 (Council Chamber)**

Attendance:	Cllr Will Cross            RBC Cllr John Ennis            RBC Cllr Jenny McGrother    RBC Cllr Wendy Griffitch    RBC Cllr Rob White            RBC James Turner              RBC Miriam Fuertes            RBC	Non-RBC Attendees Redacted
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Apologies:	Cllr Paul Gittings        RBC Cllr Jacopo Lanzoni      RBC Cllr James Moore        RBC Cllr Stephen Goss        RBC	Emily Talib      RBC
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No:	Item:	Action:																		
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> Cllr Cross opened the meeting and apologies were recorded.																			
2.	<b>Transport Update</b>  <b>Capability and Ambition Revenue Programme - 25/26 review and plans for 26/27:</b>  JT provided an overview of the success of the 2025/26 capability programme delivering behaviour change and capacity building elements promoting active travel. This has included working with Avanti to deliver Dr Bike sessions, free cycle training and maintenance training as well as supporting the Reading Cycle Festival and other initiatives.  The following data was provided by Avanti for 2025/26:  <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Type of Session</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No. of sessions</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No. of people attended</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Learn to Ride</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">42</td> <td style="text-align: center;">115</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Rusty Riders</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">110</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Commuting/ Road-skills</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">36</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Maintenance workshop</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">112</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Dr Bike (various locations)</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">250+</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Transport Officers are currently liaising with Avanti to put a programme together for 2026/27 and would welcome any input from forum members of schemes or initiatives that members would like to see again.	Type of Session	No. of sessions	No. of people attended	<i>Learn to Ride</i>	42	115	<i>Rusty Riders</i>	40	110	<i>Commuting/ Road-skills</i>	16	36	<i>Maintenance workshop</i>	15	112	<i>Dr Bike (various locations)</i>	22	250+	<b>All to note</b>
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**Active Travel Capital Scheme Update**

The Council is continuing with the development work into its Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 3 scheme for the Bath Road and Castle Hill. The current area of design focus is the Bath Road - Coley Avenue junction which already has a lot of demand for movements and is near or at capacity. Following some additional traffic surveys and modelling officers have proposed a preferred option out of all put together and this will be shared with members shortly. Once this is done it is planned to share with RCC for discussion and feedback.

Alongside this and following the work from the Task and Finish Group concluding with a directive for trialling alternative segregation options such as wands, officers and design consultants are reviewing the overall design for this scheme to explore these options. Once concluded this will also be discussed with RCC for feedback.

**School Streets and School Road Safety**

JT provided an update on the work currently being undertaken, with consultant support with expertise in school streets, reviewing the Council's approach to both school streets and overall road safety around the school run. The subject of road safety at schools was also requested as a topic for discussion by a number of forum members.

The output from this work will be to put forward an updated Council-wide approach to school streets and other road safety initiatives that can be rolled out to more schools across Reading. Whilst this may involve promoting school streets we will also be reviewing if alternative measures, such as controlled crossings, traffic calming, reduced speed limits or other options can be delivered. This recognises that there may be more appropriate measures in some locations to school street where these are less viable.

Transport Officers intend to present the outcomes from this review to Councillors later this year for feedback. It is hoped that this will be in time to report back at the next Cycle Forum in the summer. It should be noted that the implementation of any measures outlined in this work will be subject to identifying appropriate funding streams.

**Cycle Hangars Pilot Scheme**

As reported at the last forum Transport Officers have allocated a small budget for the delivery of 4 hangars however concerns over identifying suitable locations have prevented this pilot progressing. Officers also had concerns over take-up and demand across all locations, and it was commented that in many areas where these have gone in there are waiting lists for access. It was also agreed that this initiative should continue to be focused for residential use, rather than in central Reading for commuter use where demands may be more assured.

Transport Officer will review the previous work that has been put into locations by both RCC and RBC as well as suggestions from members. There was a clear desire from the Cycle Forum to move this forward.

JT/MF

### **Bikeability Programme**

The Bikeability programme is a training scheme, funded by the Department for Transport but administered by local authorities, delivered in schools across England. It teaches children practical cycling skills based on the National Standard for Cycle Training, covering everything from basic bike handling to navigating complex road environments.

The government has a national target that every child in England should have access to Bikeability cycle training and Reading has been making good progress over the last three years in terms of attendance as highlighted by the figures below in children undertaking the combined Level1/2 training.

#### **Bikeability Reach - % of Yr 6 Children L1/2 training**

2022/23 - 56%

2023/24 - 51%

2024/25 - **69%**

To give further prominence to this initiative Active Travel England now include a local authority performance on the delivery of Bikeability in its performance rating assessment.

Officers are keen to continue on the growth in Bikeability take-up across Reading through greater communications and other measures that spread the word and encourage schools and children to participate in the programme. The Council recognises that certain factors make delivering the programme more challenging for some schools and is working with Avanti, Reading's training provider, to provide more support to these schools. As well as promotional banners the programme has recently funded promoting the training, it has also funded the purchase of bicycles that can be loaned to children who do not otherwise have access to a bike so they can complete the training.

Officers will provide an update at the next cycle forum including L1/2 performance for the 2025/26 year.

### **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Review**

The Council is planning to undertake a review and update of its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This will be through the engagement of consultancy support to provide both expertise and resource. There will be opportunity for engagement with local stakeholders and the cycle forum through this process.

The following agenda items were raised by cycle forum members for inclusion in today's agenda.

- Scheme development - feasibility studies, outline designs
- Future ATF schemes

It is anticipated that, through the review of the LCWIP, this will identify a pipeline for scheme development and future Active Travel Fund schemes. These will also be supported by the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group work. All members of the Cycle Forum will have the opportunity to engage in this review in order to put forward the next schemes for development and delivery.

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Highways Update</b></p> <p><b>Station Underpass - northern approach power cables</b></p> <p>Following the opening of the station underpass for cycle movements in 2024 there remained some power cables covered by ramps at the northern approach which service two coffee/fast food kiosks. The intention is for these cables to be sunk below ground level to provide a flat approach, and an update was asked about these works. Highways have stated that, subject to receiving the required equipment, these works are planned within the next 2 months. JT will provide update through the forum.</p> <p><b>Highway Resurfacing Programme 2026/27</b></p> <p>RBC Highways colleagues are currently preparing the next resurfacing programme. A key focus for this will be repairing Friar Street which has some longstanding major surface issues, and this will absorb a large element of the budget. More details of this programme will be reported in due course and Transport Officers will look to work again with Highways to ensure cycle lines and symbols are correctly picked up throughout the programme.</p> <p>Following the previous forum it was noted that Kendrick Road was highlighted for its poor surfacing for cycles. JT has checked with Highways and Kendrick Road is currently not on the next resurfacing programme with the focus being more on A roads. However, Transport Officer will visit Kendrick Road to review and will highlight any findings as well as the specific concerns from the cycle forum to Highways.</p> <p><b>Potholes/maintenance of cycle routes</b></p> <p>The issue of pothole maintenance was requested. It was enquired whether a separate maintenance regime could be introduced for cycle routes and lanes. Also raised was the issue of footpaths under trees become very undulating due to route growth. This can make some footpaths inaccessible to wheelchairs and push chairs. JT to liaise with colleagues in Highways and provide update.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT/MF</p> <p>JT</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Requested Agenda Items</b></p> <p><b>Reading Bike Hub Update</b></p> <p>_____ provided an update on the continuing success of the Reading Bike Hub since opening in September last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get 120 adult bikes into circulation</li> <li>• Give 60 children free bikes with an optional donation of what their families can afford</li> <li>• Loan 15 hire bikes out either to people who need one while a repair is being done or borrowed it for a few hours or days</li> <li>• Offer close to 500 repairs and services</li> <li>• Run 300 skateboard sessions and 160 skate sessions</li> <li>• decrease graffiti directly around the hub via offering spray painters a space to practice their art</li> <li>• Run 18 workshops sponsored by Avanti Cycling, Reading Cycle Campaign, the Bike Hub itself and Kidical Mass</li> <li>• Provide free bike tool access to over 240 people</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit and train 50 volunteers with over 300 volunteer sessions occurring</li> <li>Run 7 learn to ride sessions with Avanti Cycling and teach numerous more children and adults as they came to look at bikes in the hub.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dangerous Driving Affecting Cyclists</b></p> <p>A number of different Cycle Forum members had requested that dangerous driving affecting cyclists was raised and this follows incidents reported on the roads. This item is also related to the agenda item above regarding safety on the school run.</p> <p>It was noted that enforcement powers sit with the police and the Council has limited powers to undertake any enforcement. This restricts what measures the Council can take to more of a communication type campaign and there could be some synergies with the work noted above regarding safety on the school run. Transport Officers will discuss options with colleagues in comms and put forward some plans for consideration.</p> <p><b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Schemes</b></p> <p>The process for proposing schemes for funding through CIL contributions was raise, particularly given the development in the town centre. JT to provide summary at next forum.</p>	<p>JT/MF</p> <p>JT</p>
5.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None recorded</p>	
6.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026; 6:30pm (CAST)</li> </ul> <p>Future meetings of both the Cycle Forum and CAST Forum will be set by Committee Services through the municipal calendar at the start of the new financial year.</p>	<p><b>All to note</b></p>