

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 JUNE 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - NOTES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	EMMA BAKER	TEL:	0118 937 4881
JOB TITLE:	ACTING TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:Emma.Baker@reading.gov.uk">Emma.Baker@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 March 2019.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 19 March 2019 is appended.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 19 March 2019.

#### 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.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 19 March 2019 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

Tuesday 19 March 2019, 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)  
Rajal Khan (UoR Student)  
Karen Robertson (Cycling UK - Reading)  
Brian Oatway  
Brian Morley (RCC)  
John Lee (RCC)  
Cris Butler (RBC)  
James Penmen (RBC)  
Lucy Prismall (RBC)  
Emma Baker (RBC)

## Apologies

Karen Stanbridge (UoR)  
Adrian Lawson (RCC)

### 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: [Cycle Forum Notes](#).

### 3. Cow Lane Cycle & Pedestrian Route

The Forum was notified that Cow Lane bridges opened on 25th February and that Network Rail works to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities are ongoing, including the construction of refuge islands and a zebra crossing. Resurfacing works were due to take place in mid-April.

RCC raised concerns about planned crossing facilities and requested better cycle facilities.

A brief discussion also took place on the proposed secondary school near Rivermead and whether a review of transport facilities would be undertaken. Officers confirmed that there would be a review, which would include Cow Lane.

### 4. Reading Station Underpass

Officers gave a brief background on the current design of the station underpass and highlighted that requests to review the underpass had been received and a number of key issues are in the process of being investigated to ensure the structure is appropriate for cycling. Councillors highlighted the aspiration to allow responsible cycling through the underpass as part of the creation of a stronger North and South cycling route, which would be further supported by improvements delivered as part of key development sites that are coming forward.

### 5. ReadyBike

Officers highlighted the press release issued by the Council in regards to Hourbike terminating the cycle hire contract. It was noted that the scheme will therefore cease from 31st March whilst Officers investigate other options.

## **6. Local Transport Plan 4 & Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan**

Officers gave a verbal update on the anticipated programme for the new Local Transport Plan, including a public consultation that will be held in the summer seeking views on what should be included in the next plan.

The Forum was also informed of progress on the Local Cycling and Walking Plan, including the intention to host a workshop to discuss key outputs, including proposed routes and potential measures.

ACTION - Officers to circulate date for workshop.

## **7. NCN 422 - Update**

A verbal update was given on the overall NCN programme, including updates to Phase 3 designs which were granted approval at SEPT Committee in November 2018: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/article/11824/NCN-Cycle-Route-422>.

## **8. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes List**

Officers updated the Forum on progress in developing and delivering schemes identified on the requested schemes list.

## **9. Items Raised by Forum Members**

### **a. Vastern Road Roundabout**

Officers updated the Forum on progress in delivering improvements at Vastern Road roundabout, including spiral marking and improved signing. Works are expected to be undertaken in early summer and will be monitored post-implementation.

### **b. Town Centre Signing - Update**

Forum members asked for an update on progress in delivering signing improvements in the town centre. Whilst some improvements have been undertaken as part of the NCN scheme others are still outstanding.

ACTION - Officers to progress ahead of next meeting

### **c. Funding for Cycle Schemes (reallocated East Reading MRT funding)**

The Forum asked whether funding allocated to East Reading MRT could be reallocated to cycling and were advised that Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership would reallocate the funding to schemes on the Local Growth Fund reserve list.

Officers highlighted potential opportunities through the development of the LCWIP and the successful outcome of GWR bid for cycle security improvements.

### **d. Cycle facilities connecting Abbey Quarter Development to Thames Path**

The Forum reiterated their request for a cycle route between Chestnut Walk and Kings Meadow via the Homebase development site and Napier Road underpass.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None raised.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

To be arranged.