

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 JANUARY 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - NOTES		
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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 December 2019.
- 1.2 Appendix A - Notes from Cycle Forum held on 4th December 2019

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 4 December 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. The suite of sub-strategies that will support the emerging Local Transport Plan will include our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which sets out our aim for transforming our streets of a ten-year period.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 4 December 2019 was chaired by Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward and attended by Councillor Page, Councillor Gittings, Reading Borough Council officers, Sustrans and representatives of various local groups.

4.2 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. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Our transport strategy is focused on encouraging the use of sustainable transport, walking and cycling as attractive alternatives to the private car. The delivery of the schemes as set out within this report form part of this overall strategy, which has achieved considerable success in recent years including bus usage in Reading being the third highest in the country outside of London, having increased by 23% since 2010, and around 35% of trips into Reading town centre being made by pedestrians and cyclists.

8.2 Transport is the biggest greenhouse gas emitting sector in the UK accounting for around 27% of total emissions. Therefore significant investment in sustainable transport solutions, including the schemes set out within this report, is vital in order to respond to the Climate Crisis declared by the Council in February 2019 and to help achieve our target of a carbon neutral Reading by 2030.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None at present

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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