

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	21 NOVEMBER 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK ROUTE 422 - PHASE 3		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines progress in delivering Phases 1 and 2 of the new National Cycle Network route between Greenwood Road on the Bath Road and Watlington Street on London Road. It also seeks scheme and spend approval for improvements along London Road and Wokingham Road, from Watlington Street to Holmes Road, following feedback submitted earlier this year on the draft Phase 3 designs.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 - Detailed designs for NCN 422 Phase 3
Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment for NCN 422 Phase 3

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 The Committee notes progress in delivering the National Cycle Network (NCN) 422 scheme.
- 2.2 The Committee grants scheme and spend approval for NCN 422 Phase 3.
- 2.3 That Committee gives delegated authority to the Acting Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the Lead Member and Ward Councillors, to proceed with the Phase 3 programme between Culver Road and Green Road (Drawing: NCN422_PH3_GA_022), subject to a review of concerns raised at Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a statutory document setting out the Council's transport strategy and policy. Reading Borough Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for the period 2011-26 was adopted by the Council on 29 March 2011.
- 3.2 The Cycle Strategy 2014: 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. 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.

- 3.3 The NCN 422 scheme is included within the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-19 and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP's Strategic Economic Plan 2016-21.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 422 was granted full funding approval from the Berkshire Local Transport Body in November 2015 to the value of £4.2 million. The cross-Berkshire cycle route between Newbury and Ascot will provide an enhanced £1.3 million east-west cycle facility through Reading, linking to existing cycle routes to the north and south of the borough and directly serving schools and other local facilities/services.
- 4.2 Phase 1 works commenced on-site along Bath Road in January 2017, following approval from Policy Committee. These works extend existing off-carriageway cycle facilities to the west of the borough boundary to Berkley Avenue, through the introduction of widened and resurfaced footways, decluttering, the installation of signing, the construction of raised tables and traffic signal upgrades at Southcote Road and Liebenrood Road. These works are now largely complete however the traffic signal upgrade at Circuit Lane is expected to be complete in November 2018.
- 4.3 Options to widen the footway and strengthen a privately-owned wall, between Greenwood Road and New Lane Hill, are still being considered.
- 4.4 Phase 2 works commenced on-site along Berkley Avenue in January this year, and consist of a mixture of on and off-carriageway facilities linking Bath Road to east Reading via the town centre. Works including the installation of two tiger crossings, imprinting across junctions and crossing improvements are now complete. Outstanding works; including the widening of existing cycle lanes on Berkeley Avenue, a contra-flow cycle facility on Kennet Side and the installation of improved signing in the form of directional signs and those reminding users to 'share with care'; are expected to be complete in Winter 2018,.
- 4.5 The Phase 3 programme will deliver off-carriageway cycle facilities along sections of Wokingham Road, between Eastern Avenue and Wilderness Road (the borough boundary). This will be complemented by improvements to the existing on-carriageway route (local route R30), providing a mixture of routes that will cater for both experienced and less confident cyclists. The route will link to Phase 2 of the NCN 422 route to the west via existing off-carriageway cycle facilities at Cemetery Junction and along London Road, and will also connect to the Wokingham Borough section of the NCN 422 route to the east, once completed. The route will also link to local cycle routes and facilities, including the R20 and R3.
- 4.6 The scheme will be delivered by our in-house Highways team, who will be supported by existing contractors where specialist services are required. The delivery programme will include:
- Entry treatments at junctions including raised tables, imprinting or tighter geometry.
 - Localised footway resurfacing and widening, supported by the installation of shared-use tiles.
 - Decluttering and the relocation of street furniture to maximise the effective width of the footway.
 - Directional and regulatory signs, including official NCN branding.

4.7 The detailed designs for Wokingham Road between Culver Road and Green Road (drawing: NCN422_PH3_GA_022) are currently being reviewed following feedback from Traffic Management Sub-Committee. Subject to the outcome of the review, the delivery programme is likely to include:

- Changes to traffic calming measures including vertical deflections and raised informal pedestrian crossing points through the Wokingham Road local centre.
- Improved crossing facilities east of College Road and west of Pitcroft Avenue, including dedicated cycle facilities.

4.8 The Phase 3 detailed designs are shown in Appendix 1.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The delivery of the new National Cycle Network route - NCN 422 outlined in this report helps to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Updates on the development of the NCN scheme have, and will continue, to be reported at Traffic Management Sub-Committee, the Cycle Forum and Older People's Working Group.

6.2 The Phase 3 detailed designs have been circulated to Ward Councillors, the Cycle Forum and Older People's Working Group for comment and updated to reflect feedback.

6.3 Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and any objections reported to Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to 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 An Equality Impact Assessment scoping report has been carried out for the Phase 3 detailed designs (Appendix 2) and does not highlight any negative impacts on people with protected characteristics.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Traffic Regulation Orders will be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and any objections reported to a future Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This scheme is included in the Council's Capital Programme which was approved by Policy Committee in February 2018.
- 9.2 The NCN 422 scheme is funded by a £1.2million LEP Local Growth Deal grant and £100,000 Section 106; £50,000 from the Lidl development on Bath Road and £50,000 for Maiden Erlegh in Reading. An additional £14,000 Section 106 is available to upgrade the pedestrian crossing at Bath Road/Circuit Lane as part of the development adjacent to 153 Bath Road. There is no commitment on Reading Borough Council finances.
- 9.3 To date £800,000 of the £1.3 million budget has been spent on the design and construction of the route. The scheme is currently within the allocated budget and is expected to remain so taking into account the Phase 3 delivery programme, which is expected to be in the region of £300,000.
- 9.4 The Phase 3 work programme will be delivered in-house by our Highways team, who will be supported by existing contractors where specialist services are required.
- 9.5 Any LEP Local Growth Deal funding not used for NCN 422 would have to be returned to the LEP.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report, Major Transport & Highways Projects - Update reports from November 2015 onwards.
- 10.2 Policy Committee Report, National Cycle Network Route NCN422, January 2017.
- 10.3 Policy Committee Report, National Cycle Network Route NCN422, September 2017.
- 10.4 NCN 422 Phase 3 Detailed Designs: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/transport-schemesand-projects>.