

9 February 2022**Agenda Item: 5**

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the current cycling infrastructure programmes and to seek Committee approval to carry out:
 - a. consultation on potential cycling infrastructure improvements along strategic cycle routes on the A453, A6005 and A612 corridors. These schemes are to be wholly funded through the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), including the proposed consultation
 - b. further consultation on the proposed Dovecote Lane, Beeston Active Travel Fund scheme following the Department for Transport approving an extension to the delivery timescales.
2. This report does not seek approval at this time to construct any part of the proposed TCF funded routes on the A453, A6005 and A612. The proposed consultation forms part of their development and is to help inform their design and whether the schemes should be investigated further. Each of the A453, A6005 and A612 corridor schemes detailed in this report is still subject to the necessary development work – consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation and design, and value for money considerations. Any cycling infrastructure within the county which it is proposed will be funded through the TCF programme will still be subject to the necessary future County Council approvals prior to their construction, following the aforementioned development work.

Information

Transforming Cities Fund

3. In March 2020 Government announced that Nottingham and Derby city councils had been successful in securing £161m of grant funding to deliver the measures outlined in their Tranche 2 Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) bid, to be delivered by March 2023. Nottinghamshire County Council was not eligible to bid for this funding, but the Nottingham and Derby TCF bid included potential projects that may benefit Nottinghamshire residents. At its Executive Board meeting on 16 June 2020, Nottingham City Council subsequently approved its TCF infrastructure programme which included a £7.04m allocation towards the cost of constructing high quality cycle routes along the A453, A6005 and A612 corridors, which includes sections of the routes within Nottinghamshire. At its 10 February 2021 meeting Policy Committee approved the County Council's next steps to develop/deliver proposals that are in the county, which include:
 - County Councillor representation on the Transforming Cities Fund Project Board
 - Relevant local Members will be contacted to discuss the chosen options for each scheme and this dialogue with Members will continue as schemes progress

- Subject to the Member consultation, public consultation will be scheduled in advance of any necessary planning application submission
 - Following detailed design and consultation, scheme proposals will be subject to consideration and approval at a future Communities and Place Committee meeting before scheme delivery.
4. In line with government advice, funding made available by government for cycling infrastructure improvements is prioritised on the delivery of strategic routes identified as priorities in a highway authority's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The County Council has developed a D2N2 areawide LCWIP in partnership with Derby city, Derbyshire county and Nottingham city councils. All three routes form part of the County Council's draft strategic cycle network being developed as part of the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and have been identified as priorities during route assessment and public consultation. Consequently, on completion of the draft D2N2 LCWIP, the County Council's provisional Nottinghamshire priority cycling corridors were approved at 3 September 2020 Communities & Place Committee and included those routes which "have already secured funding through the Transforming Cities Programme".
 5. As a result – subject to formal approval at a later date – the County Council supports the improvement/development of these routes in principle pending the outcome of public consultation and detailed design work. Funding them through the TCF initiative would represent a significant external contribution towards the cost of constructing and upgrading the County's strategic cycle network.
 6. Preliminary design work was therefore undertaken on potential improvements along each of the three corridors funded by the City Council from its TCF allocation. The preliminary design work on all three projects has now been completed; and the City Council is keen to progress to public consultation which will help inform a future County Council Committee report to enable members to determine whether schemes on Nottinghamshire highway should proceed to construction. The first stage of this consultation was with the affected local members, several of which have expressed concerns about some elements of the proposals.
 7. It should be highlighted that approval is only being sought for consultation on the proposals and in line with the approvals granted at 10 February 2021 Policy Committee, any highways proposals delivered through the TCF programme are still subject to the necessary County Council approvals following detailed design and consultation.
 8. The concerns of local members will be considered wherever possible and will be incorporated as part of the ongoing scheme design; and in the development of the final proposals. It is proposed that the public consultation is undertaken in order to gauge the level of local support for the proposals and to add to the members' comments in order to help inform the final scheme designs.
 9. Should Committee wish to proceed with the public consultation, it is proposed that a future report will be presented to members to:
 - summarise the feedback from the consultation
 - advise on changes to the proposals following the feedback from the members and public consultation – including specific details of each of the proposed schemes
 - help enable members to determine which proposals should proceed to detailed design and possible construction. Any members' concerns that are not addressed within the designs following the public consultation will be highlighted as part of this proposed report.

Summary of Proposals

10. **A453 corridor (see appendix 1):** A shared use footway constructed along the former A453 between the City/County boundary at Clifton and the East Midlands Parkway station at Ratcliffe on Soar. The route then continues south to the County/Leicestershire boundary at Kegworth, with a spur to Sutton Bonington to serve the University student population at that campus.
11. **A612 corridor (see appendix 2):** Widening the existing shared use footway between Mile End Road and Private Road Number 1. This will require the narrowing of the existing carriageway in order to avoid the need to remove a significant number of mature trees and vegetation alongside the route. The carriageway narrowing will not affect road capacity. The proposed scheme extends the existing high quality cycle route along the A612 and forms the first phase of a long-term aspiration to upgrade the existing cycle facilities along the length of the A612 to Burton Joyce.
12. **A6005 corridor (see appendix 3):** A mixture of signed routes using quiet residential roads, shared use footways and, where possible, high quality segregated cycle track. It should be noted that one of the proposals would require the loss of several mature trees although there is an opportunity to replace the lost trees with a larger number within the project resulting in an overall net gain in tree specimens. However, this is dependent on specific proposed measures being retained in the final design.

Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 programme

13. At its 13 October 2021 meeting Transport & Environment Committee approved the delivery of cycle/footway improvements on High Pavement, Sutton in Ashfield and Regatta Way, West Bridgford. Construction of the High Pavement, Sutton in Ashfield and Regatta Way, West Bridgford segregated cycleways started in January 2022 and both schemes are currently scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2022.
14. At its 5 January 2022 meeting Transport & Environment Committee approved the introduction of a point closure on Dovecote Lane, Beeston as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. Following its approval a number of concerns about the proposals have been raised by the local community. In response to these concerns the Council has negotiated an extension to the delivery timescales with the Department for Transport, meaning any proposed scheme can now be delivered next financial year. The extension will enable additional consultation to be undertaken to further consider concerns from the local community prior to the introduction of a scheme.

Further scheme/programme development, design, and consultation

15. Each of the schemes detailed in this report is still subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, and design; and value for money considerations. This will involve consultation and/or pro-active information provision on the schemes. Formal consultation will be undertaken on all schemes that require statutory consultation. These include any schemes that require a formal Traffic Regulation Order and include the introduction of (or changes to) parking restrictions, changes to mandatory speed limits, and changes that ban traffic movements. Non-statutory consultation, or information provision (i.e., informing people that works will take place) will also be undertaken with households and businesses immediately adjacent to schemes that fall wholly within the highway boundary such as new crossing facilities, or new footways and cycleways.

Other Options Considered

16. The options currently being considered are set out within this report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The project detailed within this report has been developed to help ensure delivery of County Council priorities, national priorities and local transport goals and objectives. The measures detailed in the report have been developed to reflect a balance of delivery of the County Council's strategic and transport objectives, member, public and stakeholder requests and priorities, evidence of need (including technical analysis), and value for money.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications for the County Council arising from undertaking consultation on the proposed TCF cycling infrastructure improvements as these are to be funded by Nottingham City Council from its TCF allocation. In line with the approvals granted at 10 February 2021 Policy Committee, any highways proposals delivered through the TCF programme will be subject to necessary County Council approvals.

20. The proposed consultation on the Dovecote Lane, Beeston will be funded from the County Council's Active Travel Fund allocation.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

21. The programme detailed within this report complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty. An equality impact assessment was undertaken on the Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan 2011/12-2025/26 in March 2011 to ensure that the strategy and its capital programmes to deliver it met the duty. Equality impact assessments of each of the individual elements of the TCF cycling infrastructure improvements will be undertaken by project managers as part of the scheme development to ensure that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, based on advice from the policy and equality officers.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

22. Surveys undertaken with the public and local businesses identified reducing traffic congestion as the highest transport priority for both groups. The County Council also has a statutory obligation to address air quality issues resulting from road traffic on its managed roads. The TCF cycling infrastructure improvements programme and specific scheme contained within this report has been developed to help address congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and its knock-on effects on air quality and its impacts on local communities. The recycling of materials and aggregates is also considered when delivering highways schemes whenever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee approves undertaking public consultation on:

- 1) the potential TCF funded cycling infrastructure improvements along strategic cycle routes on the A453, A6005 and A612 corridors, as set out in this report
- 2) the proposed Dovecote Lane, Beeston Experimental Traffic Regulation Order set out in the 5 January 2022 Transport & Environment Committee report.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 01/02/2022)

23. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Transport & Environment Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 31/01/2022)

24. There are no additional financial implications for the County Council arising directly from the report. The costs of undertaking public consultation for the TCF funded cycling infrastructure improvements along strategic cycle routes are to be funded by the City Council, and the costs of consultation on the Dovecote Lane, Beeston proposals will be funded by the County Council from its existing revenue allocation for the Active Travel Fund.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Strategy 2011/12-2025/26
- D2N2 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – 3 September 2020 Communities & Place Committee report
- Annual Budget 2021/22 – 25 February 2021 County Council meeting
- Provisional Highways Capital & Revenue Programmes 2021/22 – 7 January 2021 Communities & Place Committee report
- Transforming Cities Fund – Scheme Update and Funding Agreements – 10 February 2021 Policy Committee report
- Highways Capital & Revenue Programmes 2021/22 – 15 June 2021 Transport & Environment Committee report
- Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2 Infrastructure Programme – 13 October 2021 Transport & Environment Committee report
- Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2 Infrastructure Programme – 5 January 2022 Transport & Environment Committee report

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Beeston Central & Rylands Kate Foale
- Carlton East Mike Adams
- Leake & Ruddington Reg Adair and Matt Barney
- Toton, Chilwell & Attenborough Richard Jackson and Eric Kerry