

Report to Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation

Decision to be taken on or after 5 March 2018

Decision can normally be implemented at least 3 working days after decision has been signed.

Cabinet Member Report No. T02.18

Title:	Buckingham to Winslow Cycleway Extension Scheme
Date:	23 February 2018
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Local members affected:	Cllr. Warren Whyte – Buckingham East Cllr. Charlie Clare – Buckingham West

[For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444]

Summary

The Buckingham to Winslow cycleway extension scheme will complete a cycle scheme along the A413 corridor between Winslow and Buckingham town centres. It will extend the recently opened (February 2017) A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme (a new cycleway along the A413) from the Lace Hill roundabout in Buckingham to the town centre. This will provide a continuous cycle route into Buckingham Town Centre.

The scheme will:

- Encourage modal shift by connecting Buckingham town centre to the proposed East-West rail station at Winslow; maximising the benefits of the LSTF Buckingham-Winslow cycle route.
- Promote sustainable travel and the health benefits this can bring.
- Reduce congestion and carbon emissions by encouraging increased use of sustainable modes of transport.

The purpose of this report is to set out the status of the project and recommendation for next steps to the Cabinet Member for Transport.



Recommendation

To APPROVE the implementation of the Buckingham to Winslow cycleway extension scheme (phase1).

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

- 1.1 The proposed Buckingham to Winslow cycleway extension scheme supports BCC's Local Transport Plan policies:
 - Efficient and effective transport provision within Buckingham and the surrounding areas (Policy 1)
 - Improving the connectivity and reliability of Buckinghamshire's transport network, stimulate economic growth and promote safer more sustainable travel (Policy 2)
 - Encouraging cycling (Policy 13)
- 1.2 The scheme fits with the Buckingham cycle strategy work that was prepared by Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckingham Town Council. The strategy aims to create a cycle network within Buckingham.
- 1.3 The scheme proposal will complement work undertaken to improve pedestrian and cycle movements along the A413 corridor from Winslow town centre to the Lace Hill roundabout at London Road in Buckingham – this work delivered the A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme (STS) and is now in operation.
- 1.4 The Buckingham to Winslow cycleway extension as set out in *Appendix A* will:
 - Form an extension of the A413 STS and provide a sustainable travel connection from Lace Hill (housing site) to Buckingham Town Centre.
 - Encourage modal shift by connecting to Buckingham town centre to the potential East-West rail station at Winslow, maximising the benefits of the LSTF Buckingham-Winslow cycle route.
 - Link to Bourton Meadow School which has an adopted School Travel Plans which emphasise the importance of cycling and walking improvements for both students and teachers.
- 1.5 The scheme is proposed to be delivered in two phases.

Phase 1 is the route from where the completed works finish on the east side of the A413 STS to Buckingham town centre. The route uses Hare Close and progresses on-road towards Badgers Way, takes a left hand turn and follows Badgers Way to the junction with Burton Road. The path will then continue into Bourton Park using an existing footpath which will be resurfaced where required, crossing the river twice and finishing in the Waitrose carpark (see Appendix A – Overview Plan for Phase 1).

Phase 2 is the route from where the completed works finish on the west side of the A413, then proceeds up to the western side of the London Road. Connections would be provided to the Swan Pool, The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School.

- 1.6 The preliminary design for phase 1 has been subject to a public consultation held from 13 December 2017 to 24 January 2018. Section H – *‘Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Member views’* provides further detail.
- 1.7 The majority of the respondents supported the proposal for the Buckingham-Winslow cycleway extension (phase1).
- 1.8 Phase 1 of the scheme is programmed to commence works Mid-April 2018. Works are expected to be on site for up to 2-3 months.
- 1.9 Public consultation for phase 2 of the scheme is planned for April/May 2018. The project will seek approval with a separate decision report to implement phase 2 of the scheme after consulting on a completed design.

B. Other options available

- 2.1 A feasibility study was undertaken on three possible route options to establish the preferred option for the cycleway. The proposed route option in this report was considered the best option to be developed further.
- 2.2 This route will provide a sustainable connection from Lace Hill to Buckingham Town Centre and is most likely to achieve the highest usage by connecting a number of the locations identified as significant trip generators.
- 2.3 In turn, this option will maximise the health benefits the scheme can bring and contribute to the strategic goal of creating a cycle network within Buckingham.

C. Resource implications

- 3.1 The Buckingham to Winslow cycleway extension scheme is funded by developer contributions of £350,472 secured from the Lace Hill development under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 3.2 The agreement relating to the Lace Hill contribution stated that “the Owner shall pay to the Council the Footway/Cycleway Contribution towards the cost of improving the footpaths and cycle paths on that part of London Road which lies to the north of the A421 and the footpath and cycle path network in Buckingham”.
- 3.3 The developer contributions will expire on the tenth (10th) anniversary of the date of Occupation of the 350th Residential Unit of Lace Hill development. This expiry date is 26 January 2026, based on the date the final sum was received by Buckinghamshire County Council.
- 3.4 The table below sets out the funding source and total project budget. It was agreed at the working group meeting of 24 November 2017 for phase 1 of the scheme to be delivered first so that the remaining funds left over will be used to deliver phase 2 and provide connections to the Swan Pool, The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin



School. The working group comprises of the project team, BCC local members in Buckingham and Buckingham Town Council. Phase 1 will also provide the opportunity to continue the recently completed (February 2017) A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme from Winslow into Buckingham town centre.

	Funding Stream	
	S106 (Lace Hill)	TOTAL
Buckingham to Winslow Cycleway Extension Scheme	£350,472	£350,472

- 3.5 The current estimated cost for the construction of phase 1 proposal is c£65,000. This cost takes account of the project's construction value estimated by Transport for Buckingham's supply chain partner and in house contractors from Buckingham Town Council – to ensure good value for money.
- 3.6 Phase 1 of the scheme is considered fully costed, affordable and deliverable.
- 3.7 Total estimated cost for phase 2 will be presented at a later stage when the design and public consultation have been completed.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self-Assessment

- 4.1 Effectiveness – The proposed scheme design for phase 1 has been subject to informal key stakeholder engagement, a statutory formal consultation process, design reviews and safety audit to ensure the scheme is safe, effective and fit for purpose.
- 4.2 Economy – The scheme proposed will enhance the immediate environment for residents and users of the shared foot/cycle path with improvements in public realm.
- 4.3 Sustainability – The proposed East-West rail station at Winslow, maximising the benefits of the LSTF Buckingham-Winslow cycle route. In anticipation, it is vital BCC creates an integrated transport network that allows all road user groups choices in their mode of travel – with a view to encourage more sustainable travelling options.
- 4.4 Value for Money – The proposed scheme (phase 1) has been subject to a series of cost reduction exercises through the use of in-house contractors for site clearance and signing of the route.

E. Legal implications

- 5.1 The consultations that have been carried out meet with BCC's guidance on periods for consulting with the public (6 weeks).
- 5.2 A bridleway dedication under s.25 Highways Act 1980 will be carried out to allow legal cycling access for the route of phase 1 along the footpath through Bourton Park. This will be undertaken by the BCC Definitive Map and Rights of Way Team.

F. Property implications

- 6.1 All works are to be undertaken on the public Highway. Approval has been given by Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckingham Town Council to carry out works and conversion on their land.

G. Other implications/issues

- 7.1 Consultation feedback comments highlighted the Hare Close alleyway to be too narrow for shared-use cycleway / footway. This has been considered in the design and 'cyclists dismount' signs at both ends of this narrow footpath will be an alternative route proposal.
- 7.2 The public's health and safety are of primary importance; the scheme adheres to all national design standards and guidance. It has been reviewed in accordance with national standard safety audit procedures, to ensure that all potential hazards are eliminated or mitigated.

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

- 8.1 The consultation for the Buckingham to Winslow Cycleway Extension Scheme (Phase1) commenced on Wednesday 13th December 2017 and closed on Wednesday 24th January 2018, involving leaflet drops and promotion through local media.
- 8.2 Overall, we have had 50 responses to the public consultations for phase 1 with 76% in favour of the proposals, 8% neutral and the remaining 16% negative. The majority of the respondents have indicated that they are likely to use the proposed new cycleway between the Lace Hill roundabout and Buckingham town centre.
- 8.3 Buckingham Town Council and County Councillors Warren Whyte and Charlie Clare are members of the working group to develop the cycleway proposals and have offered their local knowledge and support to the proposal.
- 8.4 Very few concerns were raised through the consultation, with only the narrow width of the Hare Close alleyway, safe crossings and realignment of uncontrolled crossing at the dead end of a cul-de-sac of Burleigh Piece agreed to be addressed at the detailed design stage.
- 8.5 An analysis of the responses received through the consultation has been undertaken and is presented in *Appendix B*.

I. Communication issues

- 9.1 The decision report for phase 1 will be issued to local Members and published on the Council's website. A communications plan will be developed to ensure that information and bulletins are shared in a timely fashion and the project's website will be regularly updated with relevant information and activities concerning the project.

J. Progress Monitoring

10.1 During the construction stage, it is anticipated that the Project Manager will be updated on day to day activities regarding the delivery plan, reporting to the Sustainable Travel Programme Board regularly against project milestones and project progress.

Background Papers

Appendix A	Overview Plan of Phase 1
Appendix B	Public Consultation Feedback

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 2 March 2018. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343) or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk