



Report to the Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date: 5 October 2021

Reference number: TR18.21

Title: Wendover Cycleways Improvement Scheme

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Steven Broadbent

Author and/or contact officer: Kevin Allen

Ward affected: Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville

Recommendations:

That the Leader notes the results of the public consultation event and the proposed amendments to the scheme that are now being explored as set out in section 7.5.

Delegates authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects to complete detailed design having regard to public feedback already received.

That the Leader delegates authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects to proceed with the construction of the Wendover Cycleways improvements, once all the appropriate changes to the design have been incorporated.

Reason for decision: This recommendation will allow the Wendover Cycleways Improvement scheme to progress from Detailed Design to Construction.

1. Executive summary

The Wendover Cycleways project will deliver improvements to the existing cycleway network in Wendover by enhancing existing links and adding to them. This project is funded through an assurance from HS2.

The Council ran an online public consultation from 01 March to 28 March 2021. This report recommends that the Leader:

- a) Notes the results of the public consultation and the proposed amendments to the scheme that are now being explored as set out in 7.5.
- b) Delegates authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects to complete detailed design following public feedback.
- c) Delegates authority to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects to proceed with the construction of the Wendover Cycleways improvements, once all the appropriate changes to the design have been incorporated.

2. Content of report

2.1 This project aims to improve existing cycleways in Wendover, as per the assurance secured by the Council from HS2 during the Select Committee process. This project upgrades sections of the existing cycleway routes and improves the network by extending them to key destinations in Wendover.

2.2 This project objectives are to:

- improve connectivity in Wendover and therefore help promote sustainable travel.
- encourage cycling for shorter journeys in Wendover through developing the cycling network.

2.3 With the available budget, the Council are proposing 3 cycleway improvements within Wendover. The proposals consulted on were:

- railway station access – linking the existing Amber Way cycleway along Aylesbury Road to the Railway Station.
- Amber Way improvements on Aylesbury Road between Halton Lane and Castle Park Road.
- school access – extending the existing Amber Way cycleway along Aylesbury Road towards the schools along Wharf Road.

2.4 A Summary Plan illustrating where the 3 different cycleway routes are within Wendover can be found within Appendix A.

- 2.5 Public consultation was held from 01 March to 28 March 2021 and was held online due to ongoing Covid-19/coronavirus restrictions in the UK. The project team provided information about the Wendover Cycleway Improvements on the main project webpage, a consultation webpage and feedback form hosted on Your Voice Bucks. In addition, the Council promoted the scheme through social media releases and via a letter distributed to the approximately 1000 properties in close proximity of the scheme. This is set out in more detail in section 7.
- 2.6 The project team has collated the responses received from the feedback form. The feedback form generated numerous graphs following the results from the questions asked. These results are summarised in section 7 of this report and can be found in detail within Appendix B, the Consultation Report Document.
- 2.7 The project team has also collated the responses received via the free-text sections of the feedback form, the Q&A event and emails received in the Highways Infrastructure Projects Team mailbox. The project team has additionally drafted a response document to common questions and comments that have arisen during the consultation. These are summarised in section 7 of this report and can be found in detail within Appendix C, the Consultation Response Document.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Two other major options have been considered for the project:
- Do Nothing- The project team do not progress with the project and instead give the funding back to HS2. This would lead to no cycleway improvements in Wendover
 - Review options- Produce other options which may attract increased support. This would, however, require more funds to be spent on the design, leaving a smaller construction project. It should also be noted that the existing routes have been built up with guidance from Transport Strategy, are well supported and compliment additional cycleway projects across the area. There is no guarantee that any other designs would attract more public support.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The budget for this scheme is £560,382, with HS2 contributing £500,000 and the remaining £60,382 being funded by Buckinghamshire Council as part of the agreed Capital Programme. The budget for the scheme (code: CHA.60.AFH) has been fully

released via a business case approved by the Highways Board, therefore no other approvals are required to commit the funding.

- 4.2 Up until 01st August 2021, £89,902 had been spent on designs and other associated costs for the project, leaving £470,480 to spend on the detailed design work, construction and other project related costs. The project expects to spend £305k in 2021/22 and £163k in 2022/23, in line with the profiled budget in the Capital Programme.
- 4.3 There is a risk and optimism bias allowance to help mitigate possible overspends, therefore there is a low risk of overspend and the scope can be amended should it become evident that the spend will exceed the budget during the construction stage.
- 4.4 Under the assurance agreement that is in place with HS2, BC retrospectively claims for actual spend every quarter.
- 4.5 As per the funding agreement with HS2, the Council needs to commence construction by March 2022, unless this date is renegotiated with the HS2.
- 4.6 If the recommendations of this report are agreed, Buckinghamshire Council will look to complete detailed design on the proposed highway improvement measures and enter a contract for the construction contract.

5. Corporate implications

- a) Property: All land for this project is already within the Highway Boundary.
- b) HR: There are no foreseen HR implications in agreeing to the recommendations of this report.
- c) Climate change: Agreeing to the recommendations of this report would result in some footway widening to allow for a shared use footway / cycleway. This is expected to result in a more people cycling in Wendover, a benefit to the climate.
- d) Sustainability: Agreeing to the recommendations of this report is expected to result in more people cycling the short journeys rather than relying on cars or other modes of transport.
- e) Equality: In progressing the scheme and carrying out consultations the Council has considered the needs of persons with protected characteristics as set out in equalities legislation.
- f) Data: There are no foreseen data implications in agreeing to the recommendations of this report. This project will not require a data protection impact assessment.

- g) Value for money: The construction contract would be via the term maintenance framework with Ringway Jacobs (Transport for Bucks). This framework meets all required procurement protocols. Ringway Jacobs have submitted high level construction cost estimates which demonstrates to BC that the scheme which has been consulted on, can be delivered within the budget of £560,382.

6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

- 6.1 The project team consulted with the Cabinet Member for Transportation and Local Members, on the 10 November 2020 and shared the consultation plans on the 19 February prior to the public consultation period. 5 Local Members attended the Local Member Briefing session, including all 3 of the re-elected Wendover, Halton and Stoke Mandeville Local Members. Members were also given the opportunity to comment on consultation material prior to the material being finalised.
- 6.2 Feedback from the Local Members are that they were happy with the proposals and welcome the improvements to the cycleway infrastructure in Wendover.
- 6.3 Local Members requested that the Project Team liaise with the Parish Council to ask for their views on the designs, which the Project Team did in April and May 2021. The Parish were happy to proceed on the basis that there was overwhelming support for the scheme and that there were other cycleway schemes being delivered by other organisations across Wendover.
- 6.4 Local Members were keen for the Railway Station access to be well lit at the bottom of the Coombe Avenue steps and that the routes are clearly marked along the Amber Way. This was fed into the designs which were consulted on.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 The Wendover Cycleway project held an online public consultation from 01 March to 28 March 2021. This was held online due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in the UK.
- 7.2 The project team provided the following consultation materials:
 - The project webpage was updated and is accessible at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/wendover-cycleways

- A consultation webpage was set up on Your Voice Bucks and a feedback form, accessible at [Improving Wendover cycleways - comment on our plans - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

- An e-bulletin setting out the Wendover Cycleway proposals was sent to key stakeholders such as the Local Members and the Emergency Services on the 01 March 2021.

- A consultation leaflet was distributed to approximately 1000 local residents and businesses.

- A press release and social media output was sent to inform the public of the consultation.

7.3 Following the closure of the consultation on 28 March 2021, the project team has collated and analysed the responses that were gathered from the feedback form, the Q&A session, and emails sent directly to the Highways Infrastructure Projects team mailbox.

Members of the public who completed the feedback form (104 in total) were asked several questions about the scheme and were asked to respond with how much they supported the proposals.

7.4 The specific results were as follows:

- 62.5% of respondents supported or strongly supported the Wendover Cycleway proposals. 26% opposed or strongly opposed the proposals. 9.5% were undecided and 2% didn't answer the question.

- 51% of respondents supported the Railway Access proposals. 33% opposed or strongly opposed this proposal. 16% were undecided.

- 69% of respondents supported the Amber Way improvements. 18% opposed or strongly opposed this proposal. 13% were undecided.

- 58% of respondents supported the School Access proposals. 22% opposed or strongly opposed this proposal. 19% were undecided and 1 person didn't provide an answer.

7.5 In addition to the proposals consulted on, following public feedback and engagement with key stakeholders, the project team are proposing to:

- increase the signage along Wharf Road to encourage slower speeds, especially during off-peak periods of the day. (extent of signage yet to be agreed)

- liaise with the Parish Council to agree extents of vegetation clearance to improve level of lighting at the bottom of the Coombe Avenue steps.

- provide a clearly marked cycle route through the Railway Station car park, following further discussions with Chiltern Railways. (already agreed)

- introduce a dropped kerb opposite to the entrance to the canal along Wharf Road to enable the School Access cycle route to link up with a possible cycleway along the canal. (agreed)

- 7.6 Within the feedback form, members of the public also had the opportunity to provide free text for some questions. People could also submit letters through the post or provide their thoughts by e-mail. The project team has provided a response to common questions and comments that have arisen from the feedback form, letters and e-mail. These can be found in Appendix C, the Consultation Response Document.
- 7.7 The project team has, and will continue to, issue frequent e-bulletins updating those on the project mailing list. The project webpage is regularly reviewed and updated. Following several popular questions asked during the consultation period, a Consultation Response Document was produced and uploaded onto the project webpage.

8. Next steps and review

If the recommendations of this report are agreed, the project team will:

- a) continue with detailed design incorporating public feedback as set out in 7.5.
- b) proceed with the construction of the Wendover Cycleway improvements once all the changes to the design following public feedback have been incorporated into the detailed design.

9. Background papers

Appendix A: Summary Plan

Appendix B: Consultation Report

Appendix C: Consultation Response Document

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the

cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

