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Cabinet Member for City Services

15 June 2022

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Transportation and Highways

**Ward(s) affected:**

Wainbody, St Michael's, Radford

**Title:**

Designating cycle routes – Canal Basin Connections

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**Is this a key decision?**

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

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**Executive Summary:**

Through the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund programme, a temporary cycle route linking the city centre to Coventry Canal Basin was provided from Upper Well Street to Leicester Row. This report seeks approval to make this permanent by creating sections of segregated 'cycle track' utilising the Council's powers under the Highways Act. The report also seeks approval to create a shared 'cycle track' from Draper's Field to the Canal Towpath entrance on Leicester Row and from Friargate Boulevard to Greyfriars Road to connect to the station. This forms part of a cycle route from the station to the canal towpath for the Commonwealth Games.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member is requested to approve the creation of the cycle tracks shown in figures 1, 2 and 3.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

City of Coventry (Ringway St Nicholas & Upper Well Street) (Two Way Cycle Lane)  
(Experimental) Order 2021  
[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/6580/city\\_of\\_coventry\\_ringway\\_st\\_nicholas\\_and\\_upper\\_well\\_street\\_two\\_way\\_cycle\\_lane\\_experimental\\_order\\_2021](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/6580/city_of_coventry_ringway_st_nicholas_and_upper_well_street_two_way_cycle_lane_experimental_order_2021)

Designating Cycle Routes, December 2020

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s48981/Designated%20Cycle%20Routes%20-%20Canley%20and%20City%20Centre.pdf>

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

Report title: Canal Basin Connections

## **1. Context (or background)**

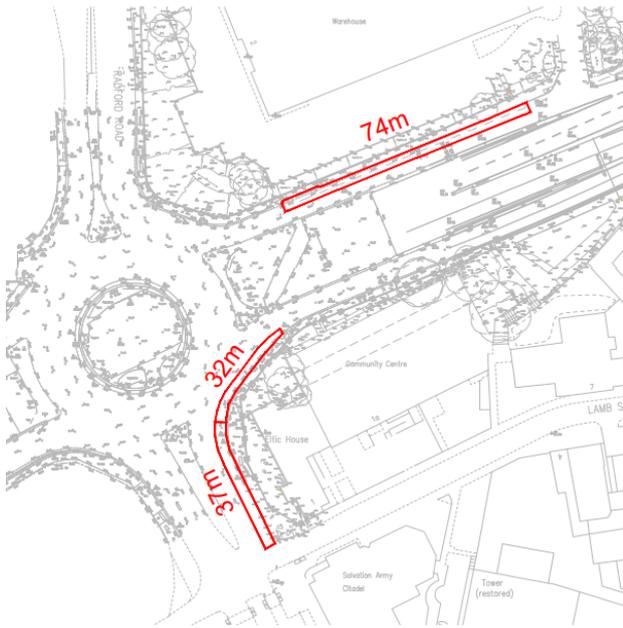
- 1.1 Through the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund programme, a temporary cycle route linking the city centre to Coventry Canal Basin was provided from Upper Well Street to Leicester Row. This report seeks approval to make this permanent by creating sections of segregated 'cycle track' utilising the Council's powers under the Highways Act. The report also seeks approval to create a shared 'cycle track' from Draper's Field to the Canal Towpath entrance on Leicester Row and from Friargate Boulevard to Greyfriars Road to connect to the station. This forms part of a cycle route from the station to the canal towpath for the Commonwealth Games.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 Options for the provision of a permanent route between Upper Well Street in the City Centre and the Canal Basin on Leicester Row have been considered. This has been necessary as cycling is not permitted across Canal Basin Bridge due to the narrow bridge deck. A previous scheme to provide a crossing of the Ring Road was rejected previously.
- 2.2 The preferred option shown in figure 1 creates a permanent 2 way cycle track on Upper Well Street Lamb Street junction, Ringway Junction 9, Ringway St Nicholas anti-clockwise off slip (nearside lane) and Ringway St Nicholas clockwise on slip (nearside lane). This retains 2 vehicle lanes on the anti-clockwise off slip and one lane on the clockwise on slip as now.
- 2.3 The Canal Towpath provides a route for visitors to access the Commonwealth Games. There is only one access point to the Canal Towpath from Leicester Row so the preferred option shown in figure 2 converts a section of footway from Draper's Field to Leicester Row to cycle track.
- 2.4 To assist visitors to the Commonwealth Games a designated cycle route is proposed across Greyfriars Green provides a more direct route for people cycling. The preferred option shown in figure 3 converts a section of footway (Freemans Way) between Friargate Boulevard and Warwick Row to cycle track.
- 2.5 Pursuant to Section 329 of the Highways Act 1980 a 'Cycle Track' is defined as means a way constituting or comprised in a highway, being a way over which the public have the following, but no other, rights of way, that is to say, a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles within the meaning of the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#)) with or without a right of way on foot;

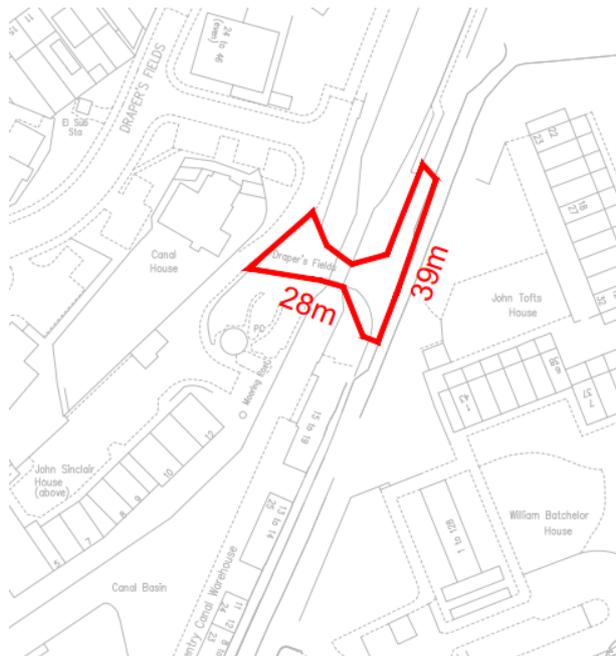
Location Plans:

Figure 1: Location Plan - Upper Well Street and Ringway Junction 9



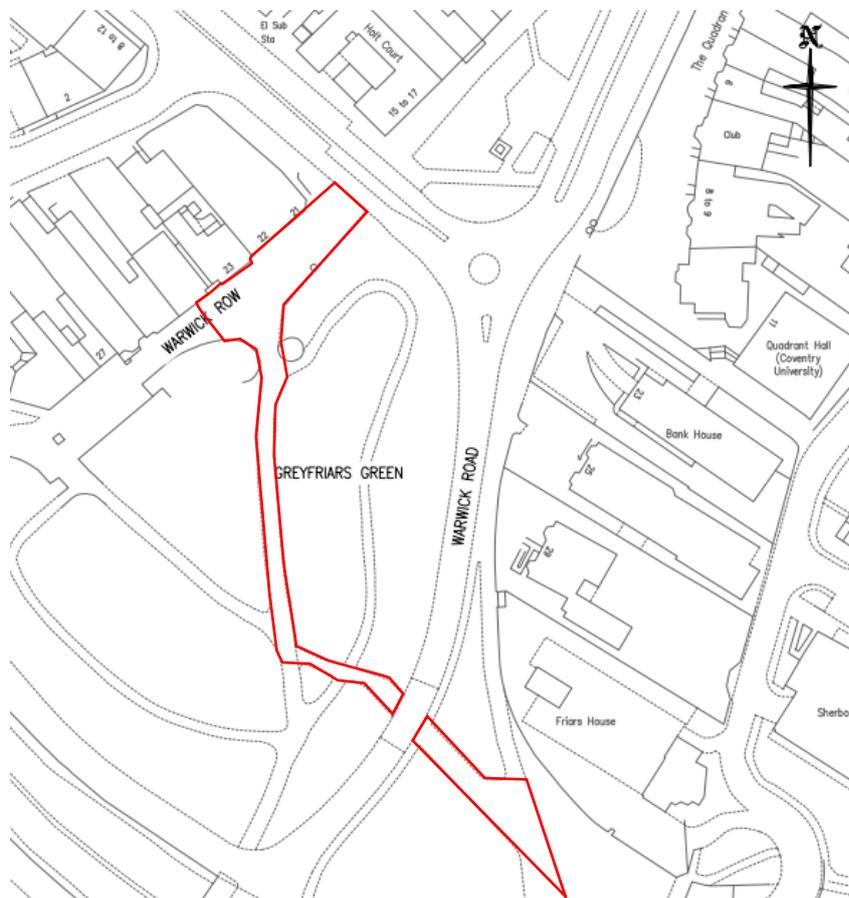
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Figure 2: Draper's Fields and Leicester Row



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Figure 3: Friargate Boulevard and Freemans Way to Warwick Row



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### 3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The canal basin connection scheme was developed as a temporary measure under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) and no objections were received to it being made permanent. The barriers on Radford Road and the roundabout will no longer be required in the permanent scheme which will make it a cycle track.

### 4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 If approval is given for these designations, the appropriate signage and infrastructure will be implemented in the 2022/23 financial year.

### 5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Governance

#### 5.1 Financial implications

The signage will be funded from the grant allocation of £0.3M from the Department for Transport's the Active Travel Fund active travel fund, administered through the West Midlands Combined Authority.

This is the first stage of a wider transport package which will be subject to further consultation and grant funding to deliver.

## **5.2 Legal implications**

As a local highway authority, the Council has powers pursuant to s.65 and s.66 of the Highways Act 1980 that allow it to alter the widths of footways and to create cycle tracks. Under the Council's Constitution, these powers are not delegated to officers.

## **6. Other implications**

None

### **6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

These proposals support the Council's core aims, as set out in the Council Plan, by: improving health and wellbeing by helping local residents lead healthier lifestyles by increasing the opportunities for cycling. In addition, the works will promote the growth of a sustainable economy by helping local people to access employment opportunities and also increase access to arts, sports and cultural opportunities

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There are no significant risks associated with the project. Works are minimal and low risk. The overall costs are also relatively low, and any additional costs can be managed within the budget available.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

### **6.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Canal Basin Connection and no adverse negative impact was identified. The other schemes are similar. Further monitoring and evaluation is to be undertaken and the schemes will be subject to amendment if required.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

The works will have a positive impact on the environment by improving the cycle network within, making cycling a more attractive travel option for local journeys, thereby encouraging modal shift from car to cycling for such journeys.

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:**

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Legal: Rob Parkes	Team Leader (Place)	Law and Governance	1.06.22	6.06.22
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Members: Councillor Hetherton	Cabinet Member City Services		6.06.22	6.06.22

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