
Cabinet Member for City Services

18th September 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of City Services and Commercial

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylesmore

Title:

Designating Cycle Routes – London Road

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

The London Road North Scheme involves the installation of a new segregated cycle track on London Road stretching from the ASDA Roundabout to its junction with Abbey Road. The improvements will include new pavement surfacing, bus stop relocations and one signalised crossing near Tonbridge Road. These improvements will encourage cycling and walking and help address health inequalities within the area by promoting the linkage between cycle tracks.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the removal of footways and construction of cycle tracks on London Road between the ASDA Roundabout and Abbey Road under Sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980 which for the purposes of identification are shown edged red in Appendix B to the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A: London Road Phase 1 Consultation Report.
Appendix B: General Arrangement Plan of Proposals.

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it 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: Designating Cycle Routes – London Road

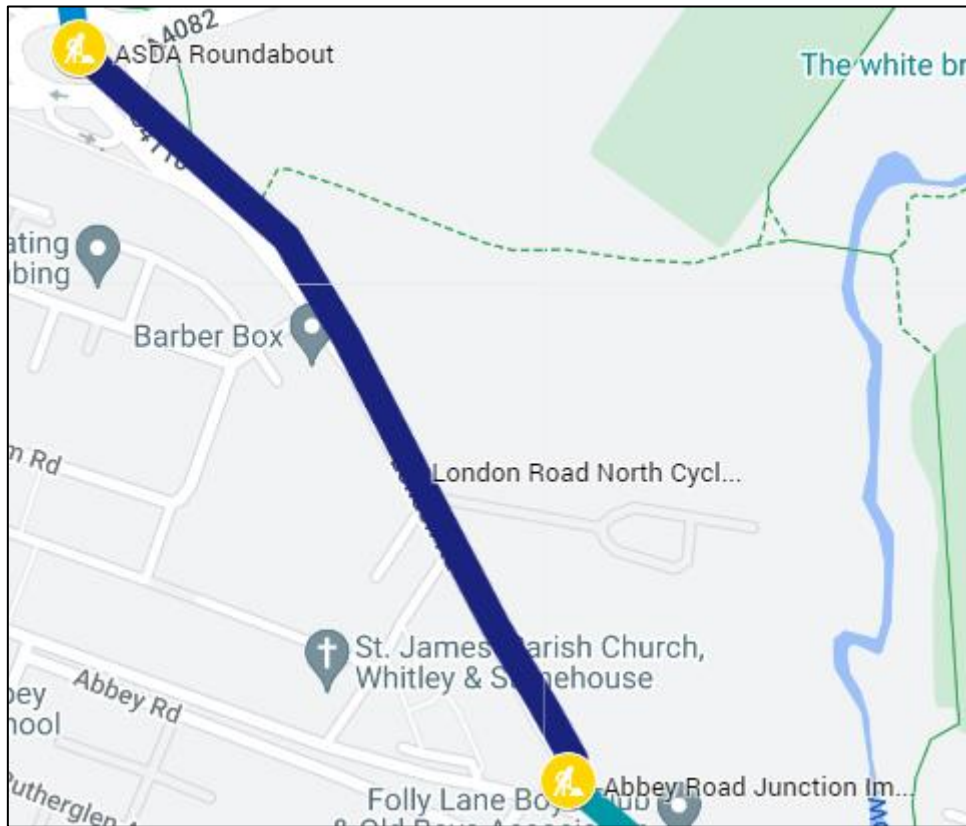
1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. As part of this scheme, it is proposed to install a segregated cycle way and footway along London Road between ASDA Roundabout and Abbey Road. The cycle track is funded through the Coventry South Sustainable Transport Package, which forms part of the Council's CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) programme as approved by Cabinet in August 2022.

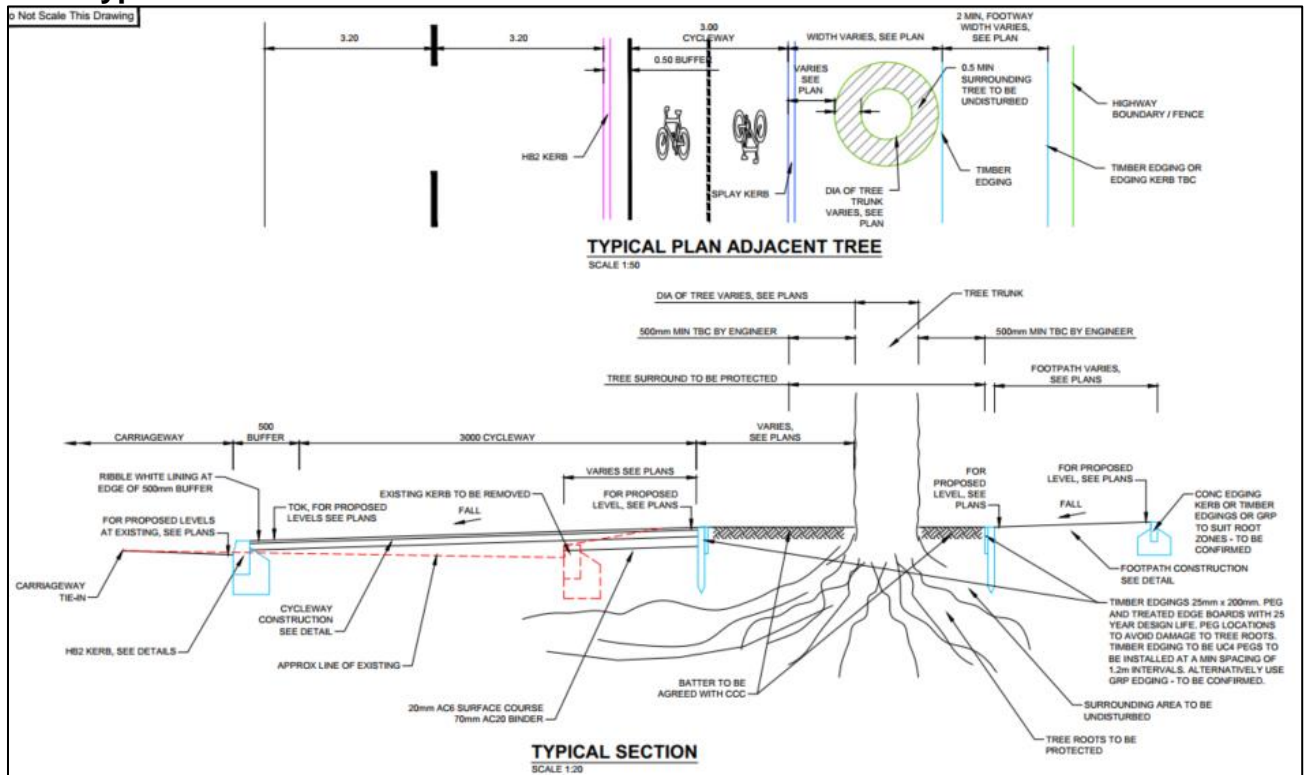
2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Options for the provision of a segregated cycle way between the newly constructed pedestrian crossing at the Abbey Road / London Road junction towards ASDA Roundabout have been considered. Due to the works previously completed at the Abbey Road junction the cycle way was initially proposed to run along the eastern footpath of London Road. However, given the existing verge and tree line, a design review identified that the space available would not be sufficient to achieve best practice (in accordance with national design standards) widths for a segregated cycle way and footpath. The alternative option of converting the existing footways to shared use is considered appropriate only when options for utilising road carriageway or other available space (e.g., verge) have been exhausted. Consequently, this initial concept was not pursued further as a viable alternative option has been identified as set out below.
- 2.2. The recommended option for this section of the cycle way along London Road has been designed with consideration for protecting the existing verge and mature trees. Pedestrians and cyclists will be separated along this stretch, with the cycle way situated on the vehicle side of the verge (see section 2.3 and 2.4 below). The existing carriageway width permits the introduction of the cycle track primarily within the carriageway itself, minimising alterations to the verge. All trees will be preserved, and any tarmac encroaching onto the verge will be permeable to ensure the maintenance of adequate drainage to the tree roots. The scheme will involve the narrowing of the carriageway, traffic modelling indicates narrowing will not create any safety or congestion issues.
- 2.3. A Stage 1 Road Safety Auditor (RSA1) of the recommended proposal has been undertaken, audit comments have been reviewed and responded to by the designers and any necessary design changes have been implemented.

2.4. Location & Layout: -



2.5. Typical Section: -



3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The scheme has been developed as a permanent measure. The Cabinet Member for City Services, the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change and Cheylesmore Ward Members have all been briefed. Adjoining residents and businesses have been notified of the proposals, whilst public engagement on the cycle track design took place in July 2024. A summary of the engagement is provided below.

- Ongoing bi-monthly meetings with Cheylesmore Ward Members and Whitley Residents Association
- Presentation by project team at Whitley Residents and Neighbourhood Watch Association on 4th June 2024. Attended by approximately 50 residents and Cheylesmore Ward Members.
- Distribution of Street News to local residents in Whitley and Willenhall in July 2024
- Lets Talk on line survey during July 2024
- Public drop-in sessions held at Meadow Park School on 18th and 20th July 2024

3.2 Results of the consultation were:

- Street news - 2 phone calls requesting clarification of no tree removal and new bus shelter opposite Tonbridge Road. Both of these were confirmed, and the residents were in agreement to the proposals.
- Public drop-in sessions - 6 attendees in total, 4 in full support of the proposals and 2 against.
- Let's Talk online survey - 69 responses to the survey. Overall, there was an almost an equal split in terms of support and against for the scheme. Those in favour were pleased that there would be more opportunity for safer cycling in the city and were keen to see the cycleway link up to existing cycleways in the city. Those against feel that cycleway would be a waste of money.

Appendix A to the report provides a full breakdown of the consultation results.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 If approval is given for the designation, the approved scheme will be constructed in the 24/25 financial year.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

The scheme is being funded through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) capital grant allocation of £21.075 million for the Coventry South Sustainable Transport Package, as approved by Cabinet on 30th August 2022.

As part of the approval WMCA approval process the business justification case (BJC) has been submitted to WMCA and the Council are awaiting a WMCA committee date for approval. This particular element of the wider Coventry South package will cost £2.375m. Any cost over-runs will be managed within the approved allocated budget of £21.075m

5.2. Legal Implications

5.2.1 Pursuant to Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 the Councils has powers to remove the footway and under Section 65 of the said Act to construct a cycle track, although this may involve little actual physical work.

5.2.2 Under Section 66 the Highway Authority is under a duty to provide proper and sufficient footways by the made-up carriageways where it is considered necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians. In this case it is considered that footways for pedestrians only are no longer desirable as the proposed cycle tracks will include a right of way for pedestrians wide enough for cyclists and pedestrians to safely share.

5.2.3. The Council has powers pursuant to S.23 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to install, vary or remove pedestrian crossings in the highway and will adopt the legal procedure for the installation of the crossing(s) referred to in this report.

5.2.3 Under the Council's Constitution, these powers are delegated to the Cabinet Member for City Services.

6. Other implications

None

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

These proposals support the Council's core aim, as set out in the Council Plan, by improving health and wellbeing by helping residents lead healthier lifestyles by increasing the opportunities for cycling. In addition, the scheme will make the city more accessible for businesses, visitors, and local people through increasing mode choice. By facilitating access to the proposed new residential site, the scheme will also support the provision of new housing within the city to help meet strategic housing needs and links to other cycle networks.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

There are no significant risks associated with the proposal.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.4. Equalities / EIA (Equalities Impact Assessment)?

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is completed and being evaluated. The new cycle track and footway layout will encourage cyclists to use the cycle track safely and allow them to join onto other cycling network routes to the City Centre. Alongside, safely allowing pedestrians to cross London Road can promote the use of active travel around the city.

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, making cycling a more attractive travel option for local journeys, and encouraging modal shift from car to cycling for such journeys.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

John Seddon
Strategic Lead: Transport and Innovation

Service Area:

City Services and Commercial

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 02476 977282

Email: john.seddon@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Michelle Salmon/ Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	02/09/24	5/9/2024
Sunny Heer	Lead Accountant	Finance and Resources	02/09/24	4/9/2024
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Tina Pinks	Corporate Finance Manager	Finance and Resources	02/09/24	4/9/2024

Rob Parkes	Team Leader, Legal Services	Law and Governance	02/09/24	6/9/2024
Andrew Walster	Director of City Services and Commercial	City Services and Commercial	02/09/24	10/9/2024
Councillor P Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services		02/09/24	9/9/2024

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings