

SOUTH WEST HERTS CYCLING STUDY CONSULTATION

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY MANAGER HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform member of the consultation process that is currently taking place for the South West Herts Cycling Study that identifies a number of highway improvements to get more people cycling in the area as an active and sustainable form of transport in line with County and District objectives.

2. SOUTH WEST HERTS CYCLING STUDY

- 2.1 Hertfordshire County Council has a cycling strategy to promote increasing levels of cycling in Hertfordshire as a convenient, quick, healthy and sustainable form of transport that is well suited to many short to medium distance journeys. Increasing levels of cycling forms an essential part of Hertfordshire's transport strategy.
- 2.2 The study is a daughter document of the South West Herts Transport Plan and covers the same area (Watford, Three Rivers District and Bushey in Hertsmere). The consultation document has been developed following consultation with officers and South West Herts Transport Plan member steering group consultation last financial year.
- 2.3 The study reviewed the existing highway network against Bikeability Levels (the new cycling proficiency standards) and where barriers exist for cyclists on key routes interventions have been identified. Other existing cycling documents were also considered during the process to ensure that the study was comprehensive. Sites for improved cycle parking have also been identified.
- 2.4 The complete list of the routes considered for improvement within this study is included in Appendix A of this report. Schemes in Watford are prefixed W, schemes in Three Rivers are prefixed TR and those in Bushey, Hertsmere are prefixed with a H.

- 2.5 The interventions identified have then been ranked against and agreed criteria used countywide to identify those most likely to achieve an increase in cycling. The highest ranked schemes have been investigated and pro-forma developed.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 A six week public consultation is currently taking place from 8th June to the 22nd of July 2012. A press release has been issued to inform residents and known local cycling interest groups in the area have been informed. The full consultation document and questionnaire can be viewed online at the following weblink:

<https://consult.hertsdirect.org/swhertscycling/>

- 3.2 Hard copies of the report have been made available to view on your reception of the local District and Borough Councils during the consultation period.
- 3.3 Should members or their constituents have any questions or comments regarding the study or its contents please complete the questionnaire online or contact David Burt at Hertfordshire Highways david.burt@hertshighways.org.uk .
- 3.4 After the consultation closes all comments will be considered and revisions made to the strategy where appropriate. The final document will then be taken to the County Councils Highways and Transport Panel for adoption.

4 DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEMES

- 4.1 Projects from the study will be then be developed when appropriate funding becomes available. Hertfordshire County Council allocates Local Transport Funding annually and projects are ranked countywide for selection. Other external, S106 and local funding opportunities will also be investigated.
- 4.2 Currently further investigation to cycling access in Watford Town Centre is being considered by Hertfordshire Highways in conjunction with the Borough Councils enhancement project. Walking and Cycling links are also being considered as part of the changes to rail stations resulting from the Croxley Rail Link Project. The St Albans Road project in Watford has been identified as a key strategic route and has been put forward as part of the BIG Herts Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid. Funding for cycle parking has also been made available in the plan area and partnership projects being progressed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members note the content of the report and are asked to contact the author directly with any questions. A further report on cycling will be brought to panel next year as per the recommendation of the cycling strategy topic group.

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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