

SOUTH CAMBRIDGE CYCLING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

To: Highways and Transport Committee
Meeting Date: 7th July 2020
From: Steve Cox – Executive Director Place and Economy
Electoral division(s): Cherry Hinton and Queen Edith’s Way
Forward Plan ref: N/A **Key decision:** No

Outcome: An understanding of the issues associated with the Fendon Road roundabout element of the Queen Edith’s Way Cycle Improvement project, their impact and approval of the reallocation of the necessary funding from within the programme budget to complete the scheme. Also, approval to commence delivery of the Robin Hood junction improvements.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to;

- a) note the issues that have been experienced on the Fendon Road project and their impact.
- b) approve the £304k reallocation of budget from within the overall programme to complete the construction of the roundabout.
- c) approve construction of the Robin Hood junction improvements

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In March 2014, the County Council adopted a new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire with the aim of ensuring that the transport network continued to support economic growth and development. It prioritised sustainable alternatives to the private car with the aim of reducing the impacts of congestion on those modes of transport.
- 1.2 A programme of improvements was proposed for the South Cambridgeshire area, funded through s106 funds. These were:
 - Queen Edith's Way cycle improvements
 - Cherry Hinton cycle improvements
 - Robin Hood junction signal improvements.
- 1.3 These schemes were approved at the Economy and Environment Committee meeting in October 2014. A total of £2,317,842 s106 funding was allocated to the programme of improvements, although at that stage it was recognised that a sum in excess of £3m would be required.
- 1.4 This allocation allowed scheme development and community engagement to commence and in the summer of 2015 an initial public consultation took place on cycling and walking improvements along Queen Edith's Way. The consultation not only revealed overwhelming support (69%) for improvements, it also highlighted major safety concerns at the Fendon Road and Mowbray Road roundabout.
- 1.5 A further stakeholder workshop convened in 2016 helped shape scheme proposals for Queen Edith's Way, which were subsequently consulted on later that year. Following concerns locally, a report was taken to the Economy and Environment Committee in November 2016 recommending that further public engagement be undertaken to develop more support for elements of the scheme. There was, however, an overwhelmingly positive response to the proposal to deliver a 'Dutch Style' roundabout, giving priority to pedestrians and cyclists at the junction of Fendon Road and Mowbray Road, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. The Committee therefore chose to approve the implementation of the Dutch roundabout in November 2016, based on a budget available at that time of £1.425m.
- 1.6 The initial budget allocation was made up of South Corridor Area Transport Plan s106 developer contributions and additional specific s106 funds of £225k secured from the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Since then a further site specific s106 developer contribution of £81k has also been linked to the Queen Edith's Way scheme.
- 1.7 In 2017 an opportunity arose to bid for Department for Transport (DfT) Cycle Safety Funding for the roundabout. A bid was submitted to the DfT for £550,000 which was successful and the funds were added to the S106 funds already approved. The Fendon Road roundabout is considered an integral part of Queen Edith's Way and therefore the total budget for the Queen Edith's Way improvements, taking into account the additional DfT and S106 funding rose to £2.056m.
- 1.8 There is currently approved funding of just over £4m assigned to the South Cambridge Cycle Improvement Programme, which is shown below:

Project	South Corridor Area Transport Plan (SCATP) contributions allocated	Other scheme specific funding	Total available
Queen Edith's Way Cycle Improvements (including Fendon Rd Roundabout)	£1,200,000	£224,906 ABCAM £80,693 Forvie site £550,000 DfT grant	£2,055,599
Cherry Hinton Cycle improvements	£1,000,000	-	£1,000,000
Robin Hood Junction Signals improvements	£800,000	£204,380 ARM	£1,004,380
TOTAL	£3,000,000		£4,059,979

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The work on the Fendon Road roundabout commenced on 9th September 2019. This was the first of the initiatives contained within the South Cambridgeshire Improvement Programme to be undertaken. The work was estimated to take 29 weeks to complete and was forecast to cost £1,525,398
- 2.2 Soon after commencing construction, substantial additional utility work, including BT and UKPN cabling, elements of which were not previously identified by either company were discovered. This has resulted in additional work to re-route and divert cabling away from the centre of the roundabout as well as build new chambers to access the cables. In total, almost 700 metres of new ducting has been installed, more than 200 metres of ducting removed with numerous new chambers built on the edges of the scheme, much of which was not initially anticipated.
- 2.3 By ensuring the utility companies were on site at the same time as our contractor has enabled them to not only future proof their infrastructure but carry out their work quicker than normal. If the utility work had been carried out ahead of the scheme it would have potentially added a further five months to the programme. Their presence on site however, has reduced the amount of work our contractors were able to carry out. Overall this has resulted in a delay of 3 months.
- 2.4 The delays to the project were being minimised well with the contractor working weekends and longer hours to enable the works to be completed by late June, however, construction work stopped on 25th March due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The site was closed down for a 6 week period with traffic management remaining in place alongside the site welfare facilities. Work has now recommenced and is progressing well despite the specific site operating procedures required to satisfy social distancing rules. The scheme is currently expected to be complete in August.
- 2.5 The additional works and Covid-19 pandemic have not only affected the programme, but have also had an impact on the cost of the project. A breakdown of the original and forecast project budget required to complete the scheme is shown below:

Project Breakdown	Forecast Budget Sept 2019	Budget Forecast March 2020	Spend to date	Total Forecast Budget Required
Design Fees	80,822	80,822	80,822	80,822
Construction Target Price	1,187,859	1,187,859	1,187,859	1,187,859
Planned Utility Diversions	179,859	179,859	179,859	179,859
Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Management Costs	63,126	113,779	139,078	163,078
Consultation/Communications	3,872	3,872	4,384	5,384
Misc. (e.g. Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's), Audits etc.)	9,860	9,860	18,399	20,399
Additional works element (inc CE's, Covid, Utilities)		266,071	499,821	722,332 (Includes additional 10% risk to completion)
TOTAL	1,525,398	1,842,122	2,110,222	2,359,733

2.6 As can be seen in the table above, prior to the scheme commencing construction in September 2019, the forecast cost was £1,525,398. In March 2020, this figure was revised to £1,842,122, following early estimates of the impact of the additional utility works to that point, and related further design and CCC management costs. The forecast budget now required has taken into account the subsequent impact of Covid-19, which includes demobilisation and remobilisation of the construction site, reduced productivity under the national site operating restrictions and additional welfare facilities. The full impact of the additional utility works is also now fully understood. A further risk allowance for any remaining risks that may occur has also been incorporated.

2.7 The total forecast required budget for Fendon Road is now therefore £2.359m. Referring back to paragraph 1.8, the total available funding for Queen Edith's Way (including Fendon Rd) within the South Cambridge Cycle Improvement Programme is £2,055,599. This requires therefore, a reallocation of £304k to the Fendon Rd scheme from the overall £4m programme.

Robin Hood Junction Scheme

- 2.8 Enhancements to the Robin Hood Junction are also included as part of the South Cambridge S106 Programme. The scheme was initially a refurbishment project due to the age of the existing signal equipment, however, the poor layout of the junction and the lack of provision for pedestrians and cyclists meant it was no longer feasible to just replace signal infrastructure.
- 2.9 A consultation in 2015 was held on a draft design and the feedback from the public and local Members included requirements for:
- Improved pedestrian crossing to all arms
 - Cycle lanes on all approaches and advanced cycle stop lines
 - Fully signalised right turns into Queen Edith's Way and Cherry Hinton High Street
- 2.10 Following further stakeholder engagement, the final design is now complete and the works are scheduled to commence in January 2021. The latest General Arrangement drawing is shown in Appendix A.
- 2.11 Based on the agreed design, the total forecast budget required is estimated to be £1.49m. This is made up of the approved £1.004m from s106 (£800k Southern Corridor Area Transport Plan and £204k from ARM) with the remaining £486k funded from a capital signals maintenance allocation that is already included in the budget and was always assumed to be a contribution towards this project.

Cherry Hinton Road Scheme

- 2.12 The remaining elements of the South Cambridge Cycle Improvement Programme are Cherry Hinton Road and any further improvements to Queen Edith's Way. During 2019, a consultation was held on options for cycling and walking improvements along Cherry Hinton Road. Based on the results of the consultation and further development work, an estimate of the forecast budget required will be available in the coming months. However, the reduction in the remaining available programme funding, following the required reallocation of £304k in funding to the Queen Ediths Way project, means that there may be insufficient funding available to complete the full project at this stage, unless further funding can be found.
- 2.13 The programme contained a £1m allocation for Cherry Hinton Road and following consultation, it is likely this would be insufficient to fund the emerging desired improvements. With the reallocation of funding to the Fendon Road roundabout and delivery of the Robin Hood junction, the available funding for Cherry Hinton Road is £700k.
- 2.14 Additional key stakeholder engagement for wider improvements to Queen Edith's Way has taken place over the past year and will continue in the coming months with a view to shaping proposals that are supported along this route and budget required.
- 2.15 With no available budget for further work to Queen Edith's Way and a shortfall expected for the Cherry Hinton Road scheme, officers will look to establish potential sources of further funding in a bid to secure the necessary budgets to allow these schemes to progress to construction. Potential sources include the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined

Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership and s106, of which there is already a small amount available.

- 2.16 The outcome of this further work will be brought back to Committee later in the year with a recommended way forward.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The improvements made to the Fendon Road roundabout will enhance the quality of life for residents and those travelling to Addenbrooke's and the Science Park. It will provide better and safer access across the roundabout for cyclists and pedestrians by providing priority for them over car users.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

The improvements in this area will reduce air pollution by encouraging more cyclists and walkers thus reducing car usage and associated omissions.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

See wording under 3.1 above.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

See wording under 3.2 above.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The budget required to complete the Fendon Road roundabout section of Queen Edith's Way improvements has risen to £2,359,733 as a result of Covid 19 and the additional utility works. The additional costs are proposed to be funded by reallocating budget within the overall programme funded by S106 developer contributions. There is therefore no additional funding required to be added to the programme at this stage.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Local members will continue to be updated on progress and activities surrounding the project, along with other key stakeholders and relevant local committees.

4.7 Public Health Implications

This scheme will significantly increase walking and cycling in the area and will therefore have a positive impact on public health.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Elsa Evans
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Sarah Silk
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Andrew Preston
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Iain Green

Source Documents	Location
None	

