

## Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

<b>Date of meeting: 8 October 2015</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:  8</b>
<b>Report title: Buckingham Road Cycle Improvements</b>	
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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the proposed improvements for walking and cycling along a section of the Buckingham Road in Bicester and part of the delivery of the Bicester travel behaviour project and the Sustainable Transport Strategy (STS).
- 1.2 To seek the Board's approval to progress proposals using funding allocated for travel behaviour projects in Bicester.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 At the SDB Board meeting in July 2015 it was agreed that funding allocated for travel demonstration project initiatives could be used to support and deliver a scheme on the Buckingham Road subject to the Board approving the detailed scheme including a programme and business case with costs.
- 2.2 The need to reduce traffic through Bicester town centre has been recognised in transport studies such as the Bicester Integrated Land Use and Transport Study (ITLUS) (2009) and the Bicester Movement Study (2013). Through traffic along Buckingham Road, Queens Avenue and Kings End through to the Oxford Road (the "Central Corridor") has been a particular issue. This route links the A4421 to the north of Bicester with the A41 to the south. Town centre highway improvements in 2012 altered some of the routes along the central corridor route and further improvements will be considered as part of the Bicester Area Strategy (Policy BIC2) in LTP4.
- 2.3 Proposals for the central corridor were prepared by Sustrans in consultation with officers of Oxfordshire County Council as part of the Bicester STS. This route is considered to have the greatest impact on reducing through traffic and providing links to the town centre through improved walking and cycling provision. The proposals for the central corridor follow the general approach for walking and cycling to be segregated as far as possible along the radial distributor routes in the town.
- 2.4 An options appraisal for Buckingham Road cycle improvement schemes has been undertaken by OCC and has recommended a preferred option that should be developed through to preliminary design and consultation. The Buckingham Road scheme was developed as part of

a wider scheme including east west movement along the Churchill Road as part of the Eco Bicester Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project from 2010 onwards. The route was identified by a cycling audit carried out as part of the Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project as a corridor of continuous cycle facilities on the Banbury Road (B4100), Buckingham Road and Churchill Road to connect the north of Bicester with the town centre.

- 2.5 This approach is supported by the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) which includes an objective *“to improve public health and wellbeing by increasing levels of walking and cycling, reducing transport emissions, reducing casualties and enabling inclusive access to jobs, education, training and services.”*

### 3.1 Report Details

#### Eco Bicester Travel Behaviour Demonstration Project Update

- 3.2 In October 2011, a package of travel behaviour demonstration schemes totalling £350,000 was presented to the Board including capital projects for cycling improvements on Buckingham Road. This in turn informed the STS. Route improvements and upgrades to enhance existing facilities are set out in the STS. The cycle route strategy (corridor approach) targeted routes along Banbury, Buckingham and Churchill Roads to link with the Bicester Town Centre Access Improvements.

- 3.3 The Buckingham Road improvements are being progressed as a matter of priority with the limited funds available. It is proposed to commission the further work required to take the scheme to detailed design. A feasibility study will be carried out including surveys, preliminary design, costings, consultation and exhibition support. Outputs will include:

- an overview of the scheme;
- preliminary design of options;
- considerations for the scheme development;
- assumptions made in either the design or cost;
- alignment with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and pedestrian and cycle infrastructure guidance and processes;
- transparent breakdown of all costs associated with design and delivery of scheme including professional fees;
- outline delivery programme;
- identification of risks and how these should be managed and/or mitigated;
- photos and plans as necessary, relevant to the scheme; and
- technical support through consultation and at an exhibition of the scheme.

- 3.4 Oxfordshire County Council has been considering a scheme to improve walking and cycling routes on Buckingham Road as part of the Bicester travel behaviour demonstration project. This proposal is also included in the bid to the Local Growth Fund.

## Forward programme

3.5 The indicative programme for the Buckingham Road scheme is set out below:

No	Milestone	Start Date	Finish Date	Milestone/decision point
1	Feasibility design and costings		Undertaken	Options to take to detailed design
2	Bicester Strategic Delivery Board Funding Approval	October 8 <sup>th</sup> 2015	October 8th 2015	Approval for transfer of Travel Behaviour funds to OCC.
3	Business Case approved	October 2015	October 2015	BC sign-off (OCC)
4	Preliminary Design	October/November 2015	October/November 2015	
5	Formal consultation and exhibition	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Consultation results
6	Final Changes and Report writing	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Recommendations
3	Cabinet Member Decisions (if required)	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	CM approval
4	Commence detailed design	Mar 2016	June 2016	
5	Mobilise	June 2016	July 2016	
6	Construction	July 2016	October 2016	

- 3.6 Some Eco-town funding for travel behaviour projects remains which could deliver the proposed improvements to an important walking and cycling route. Officers have identified the scheme as a priority requiring funding. It is a key radial route into the town that provides the opportunity for further improvements to other connector routes such as Churchill Road.
- 3.7 The next stage for the Buckingham Road Cycle Improvement scheme to be progressed is for the necessary surveys, preliminary design and consultation to be undertaken by OCC in partnership with the Bicester Delivery Team. It is estimated that this could cost £60,000.

## **4 Recommendations**

The Board is recommended to:

- 4.1 Support the proposed scheme for improvement to Buckingham Road;
- 4.2 Note the progress to deliver the proposal and support the use of up to £60k from the travel behaviour funding to undertake surveys, preliminary design and consultation on the Buckingham Road Cycle Improvement Scheme.