

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposed Shared Use Footway: A633 corridor between St Ann's Roundabout and Great Eastern Way Roundabout, Parkgate</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

### 5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of the details of the proposed shared use footway on the A633 between St Ann's and Great Eastern Way roundabouts and to report the result of consultations carried out in relation to this proposal.

### 6. Recommendations

**It is recommended Cabinet Member resolve that:**

- i) The objection to the proposed scheme be not acceded to;**
- ii) Approval be given for detailed design work to be undertaken in relation to this proposed scheme, and for the scheme to be implemented in the 2013/2014 financial year.**
- iii) The footways identified on Drawing Numbers 129/LSTF/A633.consult1 and 129/LSTF/A633.consult2 be designated as shared pedestrian and cycle use under Section 66(4) and 65(1) of the Highways Act 1980.**
- iv) Negotiations commence with Land Owners for purchasing land to enable the proposed shared use footway to be widened to 3.0 metres in the locations shown on plan number 129/LSTF/A633/LAND/01 and subject to successful negotiations for land to be purchased, detail design to be undertaken and works be implemented before the end of the 2014/2015 financial year.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

In 2010 the Government announced the creation of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSFT) and made £560 million of funding available nationally for projects over a four year period to 2014-15. South Yorkshire successfully bid for £24.6M from the fund. This success of the bid was the subject of a report to Cabinet Member on 28 August 2012, Minute 33 refers, when the programme of LSTF funded projects to be delivered over 2012-15 was approved.

One of the schemes within the successful bid is to improve cycling connectivity between employment opportunities and residential areas in the Town Centre and Parkgate / Rawmarsh area.

The proposed scheme involves the creation of an off carriageway footway/cycleway by designating the existing footways as 'shared use' between the St Ann's and Great Eastern Way roundabouts.

This would involve the following changes to the highway:

- Widening of some sections of existing footway to achieve a 3.0m wide shared use footway/cycleway. In certain areas this will require the purchase of land in private ownership, where agreement can be reached, to create a 3.0m wide shared use footway/cycleway
- Designating other sections of footway as shared use, nominal width of these sections is 2.0m
- Increasing the height of bridge parapets where these are adjacent to the proposed shared use footway/cycleway
- Conversion of existing Puffin/Pelican pedestrians crossings on St Ann's Road, at Forge Way (access to BQ) and close to the Parkgate shopping centre into Toucan crossings so that these can be used by cyclists
- Improvement will be made to the crossing of side roads to reduce the width that pedestrians and cyclist have to cross
- De-cluttering of existing street furniture within the footways

Detail of the scheme is shown on drawing numbers 129/LSTF/A633.consult1 and 129/LSTF/A633.consult2 attached as Appendix A and B.

Details of the areas of land required to widen into land in private ownership are shown on drawing number 129/LSTF/A633/LAND/01 attached as Appendix C.

The A633 is a narrow highway with physical constraints and as such the footway cannot be widened to 3.0m in certain sections. These are:

- River Don and Railway Bridges
- Underneath the existing railway bridge to the north of Retail World Roundabout where the overall width available between the two parapet walls is relatively narrow and as such, signing will be installed informing cyclists to dismount for this short section.

The scheme also includes replacing flagged footways with tarmac, improving the quality of the surface and providing a future maintenance saving. It should be

noted that in order to maximise delivery and spend profiles that LSTF funding has already been used to undertake some of this maintenance activity along the proposed route and the opportunity was taken to carry out some footway widening in highway land at the same time.

Consultations into the proposed cycling improvements were carried out during June / July this year with local residents, statutory consultees, local businesses, and elected members. A total of 5 responses were received from 119 letters sent out.

South Yorkshire Police were consulted on the proposals and a walk about was done with Council Officers and PC Birch to discuss the scheme in detail, SYP have no concerns about the scheme.

The outcome of this consultation resulted in one objection, from Councillor Neil Hamilton on the grounds that he considers that the scheme is not an appropriate use of money in times of financial pressure. Councillor Hamilton is also concerned that the scheme would cause traffic problems, if not actual danger, on an already busy main road. As the scheme proposed is a shared use footway and the only places where cyclists would cross the A633 is at the proposed Toucan crossings, it is not considered that the scheme will cause any traffic problems, although there may be some delays during construction. With regards to safety on the shared use footway research suggests that conflict between pedestrians and cyclists is not a common occurrence, however some pedestrians might perceive a reduction in safety due to the presence of cyclists. With regards to money, the bid explicitly requested funding for cycle improvements on the A633 between Rotherham and Parkgate and the benefits of this scheme, along with the further improvements as part of the full bid in improving sustainable access to employment and training opportunities was fully supported by Government when they awarded South Yorkshire all of the funding that was sought.

## **8. Finance**

The recommended scheme is expected to cost £300,000 and funding is available from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Not implementing the scheme to allow cycling along the existing footways between St Ann's roundabout and Parkgate / Rawmarsh will reduce opportunities to promote sustainable transport to and from the Town Centre. As a result cyclists would have to continue to use the carriageway which may prove to be a barrier to residents in the Rawmarsh area wishing to access employment opportunities in the Town Centre, particularly for those without access to alternative travel options.

The LSTF funding is available to cover the period from June 2012 to March 2015 and can only be spent within this period with no carry forward. Non-delivery of this project is likely to result in the funding being returned to the Department for

Transport (DfT). Failure to deliver our LSTF programme within the defined period is also likely to adversely affect future bids to the DfT including the next LSTF fund which the Government currently indicate will be £100 million for Capital works in 2015-2016

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

LSTF supports the Sheffield City Region's Transport Aspirations and more locally it complements Rotherham's Corporate Objectives, with particular focus on:

- Making sure no community is left behind
- Creating safe and healthy communities
- Improving the environment

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Cabinet Member report on 28 August 2012, Minute 33 refers

A Sustainable Journey to Work (LSTF Bid) available at:

<http://www.syltp.org.uk/lstf.aspx>

Shared Use Operational Review, Atkins, 2012

**Contact Name:** Matthew Lowe. Ext 54490  
matthew.lowe@rotherham.gov.uk