



North Yorkshire County Council
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee - 7 November 2019
National Productivity Investment Fund- West Harrogate Improvement Package
Progress Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members on the progress of the West Harrogate Improvement Package, to be funded by National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In May 2018 Department for Transport allocated North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) with £3.2 million to be spent by March 2020, as part of a bigger package of works with local authority contributions and third part contributions bringing the total cost of improvements to £4.6 million.
- 2.2 Recognising Otley road as a busy transport corridor to the West of Harrogate, a number of junctions along the corridor that have already been identified as over capacity. There are a number of committed developments along the corridor and potential future sites in the area that improved highway capacity will help to unlock. There are currently no cycling facilities aside from advance stop lines along the corridor, this currently minimises the attractiveness of cycling the short trip to/from central Harrogate. Otley Road also provides access to Cardale Business Park, one of Harrogate's key employment districts. The current highway infrastructure along Otley Road is not sufficient to sustain the proposed levels of growth expected along the corridor.
- 2.3 Among the planned upgrades are improvements to junctions on Otley Road including smart traffic lights, extra traffic lanes, a new off road cycle lane to link into the developing cycle network and new or improved pedestrian crossings. These engineering measures will be complimented by an investment into the 'softer' measures such as publicity and education regarding sustainable travel.
- 2.4 The package of sustainable measures will help to improve safety and alleviate the levels of congestion currently experienced along the Otley Road corridor, accommodating the existing traffic and future growth of Harrogate as recognised in Harrogate Borough Council's proposed Local Plan.

3.0 Identified Improvement schemes

- 3.1 NPIF Sustainable Transport Package - West Harrogate will deliver the following schemes:

Scheme	Proposed delivery start date
Harlow Moor Road Junction upgrade	February 2020
Otley Road Cycle route	February 2020
Rural Routes Penny Pot Lane	Complete
Howhill Road to Hillfoot	Complete
Roundabout Burnbridge	Non Delivery
Signal upgrades Queens Road/West Avenue Pelican	February 2020
Otley Road/Pannal Ash road/ Manor Drive	February 2020
Otley Road/Wharfedale Ave Pelican	February 2020
Otley Road/Beckwith Knowle/Harlow Pines	February 2020
Otley Road/Beckwith Head Road/Crag Lane junction	Complete
Otley Road /Cold Bath Rd/Arthurs Ave	Complete

4.0 Burnbridge Roundabout- Scheme update

- 4.1 A feasibility study identified the need for third party land and significant level changes that would impact on the final delivery and cost of the scheme. Estimates were costed at over £2million.
- 4.2 In 2018 just before the bid was awarded NYCC introduced a Left turn lane from A61 Leeds road onto Burnbridge lane, this was part of a Safety scheme that required delivery. Since the introduction of these measures (now over a year ago) the junction has seen a marked improvement in terms of the safety of manoeuvres and aiding the flow of traffic on Leeds Road. It has therefore been identified that a roundabout is no longer required for this area, at this time.
- 4.3 The Department for Transport (DfT) have been made aware of the above and have given permission to spend the available funds on the remainder of the package of works, enabling NYCC to deliver enhanced designs at the Harlow Moor Junction upgrade and the Otley Road Cycle route.

5.0 Otley Road Cycle Route – Scheme update

- 5.1 The Cycle route has been designed off road along the wide footpath and verges of Otley Road. It has been designed to take cyclists on both sides of the road on majority segregated routes. The final design has included a number of new junction upgrades to introduce two new Toucan facilities for cyclists. The final design can be found on the below website link (6.3).
- 5.2 The design includes the use of the Stray, requiring a change in byelaw. This must be implemented by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) under the Harrogate Stray Act 1985, and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) local highways team are liaising with Harrogate Officers.. It is likely that the legal requirements associated with the Stray will not be concluded by March 2020. If this is the case the delivery will need to

be split into two phases. The first phase (Cardale Park to Harrogate Grammar School), to commence February 2020, the second phase (Harrogate Grammar School to the town centre) to be delivered at a later date once the use of the Stray and associated requirements have been concluded.

- 5.3 Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council Officers are currently considering locations where surfaced areas can be returned to grass, appropriate consultations and permissions must then take place. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is the freeholder of the Stray. Harrogate BC cannot exercise the power to grant consent conferred to them under the Harrogate Stray Act 1985 without the agreement of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, such consent should be in writing. HBC officers are in communication with appropriate Duchy representatives regarding the necessary processes.

6.0 Community support for the cycleway

- 6.1 Following a public engagement event in January 2019 a 'Questions and Answers' page (Q and A) has been published on NYCC's website (via the link below), Officers continue to add to this as new issues are raised. Officers have addressed the issues raised and since January re-designs have included an additional Toucan crossing and additional signage. Officers have considered additional tree planting and will be working with the school to ensure this happens in agreeable locations to the Highway Authority and school. We have revisited the designs to save the tree at Victoria Road and sought to relocate a bus stop to address an existing problem. NYCC Officers have listened to the public and where feasible and appropriate concerns have been addressed. The programme has seen a delay while officers responded to feedback received and amended the Scheme where appropriate.
- 6.2 The final design will go through the necessary Safety Audit stages before delivery and immediately following implementation in accordance with national standards.
- 6.3 Further details of the Q and A can be found at; <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/west-harrogate-improvement-package>
- 6.4 Officers are aware of a recent online petition against the cycle route with approx. 277 signatures, although this has not yet been formally presented to NYCC. Approximately 130 letters of support for the route have also been received, by NYCC, HBC and the Duchy of Lancaster.

7.0 Harlow Moor Road Junction - Scheme update

- 7.1 Improvements at the Junction of Harlow Moor Road with Otley Road will see the widening of the junction and the introduction of a left turn lane into Harlow Moor Road. This improvement will address the impact of queuing traffic in the short term but has also been designed to allow the capacity of future growth identified in HBC's Local Plan.
- 7.2 A number of utility diversions will be required, all necessary parties have been identified (Virgin, BT and Northern Power Grid) and programmes are being concluded. It is envisaged that work on the junction will start in February 2020. Details of the design can be found on the above website (at 6.3).

8.0 Rural Routes - Scheme update

- 8.1 Improvements to the rural routes West of Harrogate have been concluded. This saw much needed resurfacing improvement work take place at Penny Pot Lane and Howhill Road to Hillfoot.

9.0 Signal Upgrade- Scheme update

- 9.1 The upgrade at Crag Lane, delivered by Taylor Wimpey is now complete and Cornwall Road/ Otley road will be included in the delivery of the cycle route scheme. The remaining signal upgrades will be delivered by NYCC Signals team from January onwards. Elements of this work will need to be programmed in conjunction with the delivery of the cycle route and Hookstone junction improvement scheme.

10.0 Sustainable travel publicity info - Scheme update

- 10.1 This element is being delivered by Network Strategy team in Highways and will be delivered through their Open Harrogate programme, there will be close engagement to ensure that the new developments and employment sites are actively encouraged to use the new cycle route.

11.0 NPIF Communications

- 11.1 North Yorkshire County Council have updated their website with the most up to date designs. Once contractors are appointed and start times are known this information will also be on the website. Residents in the vicinity of the works will be provided with details of the works and necessary traffic management arrangements in advance of the works taking place.
- 11.2 Once work has started weekly updates regarding progress will also be shared with the public via the NYCC website and social media.

12.0 Financial Implications

- 12.1 No significant financial implications have been identified as a result of the recommendations of this report.

13.0 Equalities Implications

- 13.1 No significant equalities implications have been identified as a result of the recommendations of this report.

14.0 Legal Implications

- 14.1 No significant legal implications have been identified as a result of the recommendations of this report

15.0 Recommendation

- 15.1 That members are aware of the update and proposals for delivery of the schemes within Harrogate West Improvement Package and Officers provide a further progress update February/ March 2020.

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