

Information briefing

To: Northfield District Committee

Report From Birmingham Cycle Revolution Programme Manager

18th November 2016

Birmingham Cycle Revolution Programme – Proposals for Northfield District

Purpose of Briefing

To provide a briefing to Northfield District Committee on the Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Programme including the specific measures proposed for the Northfield District area.

Briefing Detail

Cycling in Birmingham: The Big Picture

The Birmingham Connected Transport Strategy provides a long term vision for healthy and sustainable transport which is essential for our city to grow and succeed. Cycling is a key part of this strategy and contributes towards reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. It will have a key role to play in assuring the success of the City's Clean Air Zone and achieving compliance with air quality limits before 2020. As a form of active travel it can assist with the adoption of healthier lifestyles and managing the use of the City's transport network more efficiently.

In support of Birmingham Connected, the Birmingham Cycle Revolution programme has been developed. This is a 20-year strategy, with an initial 7-year funded programme (2013 to 2020), which aims to make cycling a mainstream form of transport across the entire city, with a target to increase the proportion of cycle trips from the level of 2% in 2013 to 5% by 2023 and 10% by 2033.

How Will This Be Achieved? The Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Programme Proposals

Following a number of successful funding bids to both the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP), money has been secured to implement a package of cycling improvements across the city, in order to deliver the BCR vision, as follows:

- Highway Routes: cycle routes along Main (arterial) Corridors, associated links to Canal and Green Route schemes (see below), measures to improve cycle accessibility into and within Green Travel Districts (GTDs) and key local centres, improvements to city centre cycle routes

and the introduction of 20mph speed limits across approximately one-third of the streets in Birmingham (20mph Areas).

- Canal Routes: Extensive improvements to existing canal towpaths to provide an all-weather cycling surface, together with associated access improvements, lighting upgrades, signing and way-finding.
- Green Routes: Improvements and extensions to the existing network of 'off-road' routes through parks and public open space areas.
- Supporting Measures including the Big Birmingham Bikes initiative, Private Cycle Parking grants (Top Cycle Locations), a Brompton Bike Hire Scheme and cycle parking improvements, together with a package of Smarter Choices activities in support of the infrastructure investment above.

Cycling Improvements in and Around Northfield

A number of schemes have previously been implemented, or are due to be implemented in the Northfield area to encourage cycling, either as part of previous sustainable transport programmes or the current Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) programme.

Highway Schemes

- As part of the previous Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme, cycle infrastructure was introduced along the Bristol Road between the City Centre and Northfield, comprising the introduction of shared cycle paths on footways with a section of on-carriageway advisory cycle lane introduced between Selly Oak and Northfield.
- Within the next phase of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution, it is proposed to enhance the current cycling provision along the Bristol Road with the introduction of a 'Main Corridor' cycle route between the Ring Road and Selly Oak, which will include significant sections of segregated cycle lane.
- A key proposal of the forward BCR programme is to improve the accessibility for cyclists into the Green Travel District (GTD) areas across the city. Development work will commence shortly, and it is proposed that this will include consideration of the Selly Oak, Northfield and Longbridge GTD areas. There will be a specific focus on the Selly Oak GTD area, linking as it does with the proposed Bristol Road Main Corridor cycle route. This will extend into the Weoley Ward, which is within Northfield District i.e. encouraging residents in Weoley Area who work/study at University or QE Hospital to cycle.
- Cycle facilities will also be introduced in Northfield District as part the various highway improvements proposed under the Local Growth Fund Longbridge Connectivity Project. These measures include the introduction of shared and segregated facilities on Longbridge Lane between Groveley Lane junction and Longbridge Station, on Bristol Road South around the junction with Lickey Road and also along the one way section of Tessall Lane. The Full Business case for this project was approved in December 2015 and implementation is expected to take place between 2017 and 2018.

Canal Routes

- Extensive improvements for cyclists have been made to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal in particular the provision of a new all-weather cycling surface. These improvements extend from the City Centre to Northfield and beyond, with the final section between Kings Norton to West Hill Tunnel having been recently completed. A number of other improvements are planned which will assist residents in the district, including the construction of improved accesses onto the canal at University station and Selly Oak.

Green Routes

- Improvements to two sections of the Rea Valley Cycle Route (in Ballams Wood and adjacent to Wychall Lane) have recently been completed on site.

Other Measures

- Big Birmingham Bikes (BBB): As part of the first phase of the BBB initiative approximately 130 people in the most socially deprived parts of Northfield district have been issued with free bikes to improve their mobility and access to employment opportunities. A further 12 Big Birmingham Bikes have been issued to the Bike South Birmingham community initiative for use in and around Northfield.
- Top Cycle Locations (TCL): As part of the first phase of BCR, grants for the provision of cycle infrastructure (parking, showers, lockers etc) have been issued to over 60 schools and business within a 20-minute cycle time of the city centre (the original BCR bid area). Further funding has now been secured to extend the initiative across the entire city, including the Northfield area, for which a roll-out/communications exercise is planned to commence shortly.
- Smarter Choices (Revenue) Activities: To compliment the investment in cycle infrastructure, Smarter Choices activities are being undertaken in the Northfield area to promote cycling, both as part of the previous LSTF programme and in conjunction with the Birmingham Cycle Revolution through the Big Birmingham Bikes initiative. Initiatives include:
 - Working closely with Bike South Birmingham who are based at the Northfield Eco Centre and undertake cycle promotion activities including led-rides.
 - Developing a volunteer led short-term hire scheme from Kings Norton Park, in partnership with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum.
 - 2 full time activators in post to facilitate cycling across the area and meet with interested groups.

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