

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Director Community Services
Date: 26 May 2015

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Morecambe South; and
Morecambe West

**Conversion of Footway to Cycle Track: Lancaster Road, Morecambe between
Christie Avenue / Lathom Avenue and Sainsburys store**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

It is proposed to convert the footways on Lancaster Road, Morecambe between Christie Avenue / Lathom Avenue and Sainsburys to cycle tracks with a right of way for pedestrians. The scheme would be carried out and funded by Lancaster City Council using a Section 106 planning contribution from Sainsburys for cycle infrastructure in connection with the store.

The scheme is shown on the plan attached at Appendix 'A'.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve:

- (i) the conversion from footway to shared use cycle track with a right of way for pedestrians on the following lengths of footway on B5321 Lancaster Road, Morecambe:
 - southwest side: from Christie Avenue west for 120 metres to the cycle entrance to the store; and
 - northeast side: from Lathom Avenue west for 30 metres to the toucan crossing at the traffic entrance to the store

- (ii) that the work be carried out by Lancaster City Council.

Background and Advice

It is proposed to convert the footways on Lancaster Road, Morecambe between Christie Avenue / Lathom Avenue and Sainsburys to improve cyclists' access to the store. The proposal will also allow cyclists travelling from Lancaster and Morecambe Greenway to Bare and the Broadway area via Christie Avenue to use the toucan crossing by the store entrance to cross the road.

Improvements to cycle infrastructure on Lancaster Road was one of the planning conditions for the store. As part of the highway works for the store the footways were widened but not signed as cycle tracks at the time. The scheme involves little more than signing as the footways are already considered wide enough for joint use.

The scheme would be funded and carried out by Lancaster City Council from a £55,000 Section 106 contribution from Sainsburys for cycling infrastructure. The bulk of the Section 106 funding is being used by Lancaster City Council to construct a new cycle path from Lancaster and Morecambe Greenway to Bartholomew Road, which will improve connections from the Westgate area to the store.

The scheme proposed as part of Sainsburys' planning application originally extended to a toucan crossing at Burlington Avenue by Lancaster Road Primary School. However the footway is narrower by the school, there is a bus shelter which considerably narrows the footway and the school were not supportive of this length of footway being converted to cycle track due to concerns about cyclists and pedestrians conflicting at school starting and leaving times.

Consultations

Adjacent properties, County and District Councillors have been consulted on the scheme. No objections to the scheme have been received.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The proposed scheme should enable cyclists to access the store from side roads to the east without having to ride on Lancaster Road. It also provides a safer crossing for cyclists travelling from the Lancaster – Morecambe Greenway via Christie Avenue to and from Bare and Broadway reducing their chance of being injured when crossing the road. The proposed cycle track is considered wide enough for cyclists and pedestrians to safely share.

Financial

The scheme will be funded and carried out by Lancaster City Council from a Section 106 contribution from Sainsburys for cycling infrastructure.

There is no direct County Council financial involvement in the implementation of the scheme, though the County Council would be responsible for maintaining any signs or markings once they have been put in.

The Section 106 funding has to be spent by July 2015 or returned to the developer.

Legal

The legal procedure to convert a footway to a shared use cycle track is under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 to remove the footway and under Section 65 to construct a cycle track, although this may involve little or no physical work.

Under Section 66, the Highways Authority is under a duty to provide proper and sufficient footways for use on foot only by the made-up carriageways where it is considered necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians. Such footways can be removed under the Highways Act provisions. In this case a discrete footway is considered to be no longer necessary and as the cycle track will have a right of way for pedestrians.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.