



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WOKING)**

**CYCLE WOKING – PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE
CROSSING ON VICTORIA WAY, BY VICTORIA BRIDGE &
CREATION OF OFF ROAD ROUTES**

16 FEBRUARY 2009

KEY ISSUE

To consider a proposal for a parallel cycle/pedestrian crossing on Victoria Way, by Victoria Bridge and the creation of 'off road' pedestrian and cycle routes.

SUMMARY

The report gives details of a proposed parallel cycle/pedestrian crossing on Victoria Way, by Victoria Bridge and the creation of 'off road' pedestrian and cycle routes.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree :

- i. That the proposed parallel cycle/pedestrian crossing on Victoria Way, by Victoria Bridge shown on Drawing No.12768 be approved for detailed design and construction.
- ii. The proposed 'off road' routes detailed in paragraph 2.4 are approved.

1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16 September 2008, the Committee approved a detail draft plan and programme for the delivery of cycle improvements in Woking, based on Surrey County Council's (SCC's) successful bid to Cycling England to become a cycle town.
- 1.2 Two of the key proposals in the bid was to improve the existing Woking Cycle Network, particularly by improving access to and within Woking Town Centre and improve the Basingstoke Canal and links into the adjacent neighbourhood areas.
- 1.3 At present, cyclists cannot legally cycle over Victoria Bridge, or over the adjacent staggered pelican crossing on Victoria Way, or along Gloucester Walk into the town centre. This route, linking Horsell with the Town centre, is an important link from the north-west, and will be signed as the Jupiter Trail.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 It is proposed to provide a cycle crossing on Victoria Way, alongside the existing staggered pelican crossing, as shown on Drawing No.12768 attached at Annex A. The cycle crossing will also be staggered, as current guidelines for pedestrian and cycle crossings recommend a stagger where the width of the crossing exceeds 15 metres, and the width of Victoria Way at this location is 19 metres. The existing pedestrian crossing will remain essentially as it is at present, apart from minor amendments to the pedestrian barriers, thus avoiding any costs associated with modifying the crossing.
- 2.2 Analysis of traffic flow patterns are continuing, but it is hoped that it will be possible to allow cyclists to cross the entire width of Victoria Way during a single "green cycle" phase. This will involve stopping traffic in both directions simultaneously, but this will only be necessary when a cyclist has registered a demand, and, as cyclists can travel three to four times as fast as pedestrians, this should not interfere unduly with traffic flows on Victoria Way. (If analysis shows that this will not be possible, cyclists will cross Victoria Way in two stages, as pedestrians do now).
- 2.3 As part of the proposals, cyclists will also be permitted to cycle along that part of Gloucester Walk linking Victoria Way to Town Square, and also over Victoria Bridge. It is intended to construct a new pedestrian/cycle access from the north side of Victoria Bridge into the Brewery Road car park, as the width and alignment of the existing access ramp precludes safe use by cyclists. However, exact details of the changes may be influenced by possible redevelopment proposals for the Brewery Road car park.

2.4 The Cycle Woking project includes the creation of new and improved routes across the Woking area, including linking to the Canal towpath. The Basingstoke Canal towpath has been improved between Hermitage Road Bridge and Monument Road Bridge and three new link routes can be created at minimal cost as follows:

1. Existing wide footway on north side of A324 Brookwood Lye Road between A322 Bagshot Road and Basingstoke Canal at Hermitage Road Bridge. Proposed creation of shared pedestrian cycle route linking Brookwood with improved Basingstoke canal towpath.
2. Creation of short length of pedestrian and cycle route on west side of Parley Drive between Lockfield Drive, where pedestrian and cycle routes already exist and the improved Basingstoke Canal towpath.

3 OPTIONS

3.1 An alternative proposal would be to provide an unsegregated Toucan crossing. However, this would be more expensive, as it would involve extensive modification of the existing crossing. The proposal described above leaves the pelican crossing virtually unaltered. In addition, where large numbers of pedestrians and cyclists wish to cross the road, and each has a defined route, a segregated crossing is likely to operate more satisfactorily.

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 The following parties have been consulted on the proposals for Victoria Way:

- The Emergency Services
- County and Borough Councillors
- SCC's Traffic Systems
- Town Centre Management Group
- Woking Cycle Users' Group

4.2 Responses received will be presented at the meeting.

4.3 In relation to the link routes to the Canal, consultations have been

undertaken with the following:

- Basingstoke Canal Authority
- Sustrans
- Woking Cycle Users Group
- Woking Borough Council

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of modifying the crossing on Victoria Way is estimated to be £115,000. (Design and construction). Funding for these works will come from the Cycle Woking Project, which includes s106 funding, and “match” funding from Cycling England.
- 5.2 The estimated cost to create the ‘off road’ shared link routes to the Basingstoke Canal will also come from the Cycle Woking Project and has been budgeted for at £27,000.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals will facilitate cycle access to Woking town centre from the north, and to/from the Basingstoke Canal thus offering greater modal choice for all visitors.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Crime and Disorder implications.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The proposals described above will greatly improve cycle access to Woking town centre and the local Neighbourhood areas

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 These proposals were included in the draft Plan and Programme of works approved by the Committee on 16 September 2008, and reflect the aim of improving Woking’s existing cycle infrastructure, as agreed with Cycling England.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Subject to approval by the Committee, for Victoria Way crossing, detailed design will commence in late 2008/9, with construction taking

place in 2009/10. For the 'off road' routes these will be implemented during March / April 2009.

- 10.2 The necessary Notice (to advertise an amendment to an existing pedestrian crossing) will be published in 2009/10, prior to construction.

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