



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

CYCLE WOKING – PROPOSED PROGRAMME 2009/10 & INDICATIVE PROGRAMME 2010/11

16 FEBRUARY 2009

KEY ISSUE

To agree the programme for the 2009/10 financial year and the indicative programme for 2010/11.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council, supported by a partnership of authorities including Woking Borough Council submitted a bid for Cycling Town status to the Cycling England Board on the 31 March 2008.

Following short listing and an interview, the Woking Cycling Town bid was successful and was awarded £1.82 million as 'match funding' on the 19 June 2008.

The County Council submitted a Plan and Programme to Cycling England for Woking based on the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. However, the programme was always accepted as being flexible and this Committee should approve the programme for the 2009/10 financial year and an indicative programme for 2010/11.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:

- i. That the draft Programme attached as **Annex A** is approved.
- ii. That where possible, any new Section 106 funding will be allocated towards the Woking Cycling Town project
- iii. That officers be authorised to proceed with any necessary actions including traffic orders, advertisements and notices of intent in order to deliver these projects.
- iv. That officers will update members of the Local Committee in relation to the progress of the Woking Cycling Town Project, at appropriate times during the year.
- v. That the Local Committee would receive a report at its scheduled February 2010 meeting, to agree a works programme for the 2010/11 financial year.

1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Transport Secretary announced on the 19 June 2008 that Woking had been one of ten successful Cycling Towns and would be awarded £1.82 million in 'match' funding from Cycling England.
- 1.2 2008/09 is the first year of the two and half years of Woking being designated as a Cycling Town. Success could well bring in additional 'match' funding beyond 31 March 2011.

2 ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

- 2.2 The additional funding has allowed the Cycle Woking partnership to create a more cycle friendly town and some of the successes to date are as follows:
- Improvement of the Basingstoke Canal towpath from Hermitage Bridge to Monument Road Bridge (5.2km)
 - Construction of a new Toucan crossing at A247 Kingfield Road near Westfield Avenue junction.
 - Improvements to the existing Cycle Network within Woking
 - Additional cycle parking at doctors, dentists etc.
 - More Cycle Clubs at Woking schools.
 - Additional Cycle Parking facilities at schools
- 2.3 More improvements are planned for the remainder of 2008/09, however the emphasis of this report is to agree a programme of works for 2009/10 and an indicative programme for 2010/11, attached as **Annex A**.

Walking and Cycling

- 2.4 Although Woking has been designated a Cycling Town, the improvements planned will both assist walkers as well as cyclists through the planned infrastructure improvements, personalised travel planning and work with schools.

Public Transport

- 2.5 The improvement works for the Cycling Town include significant increases in cycle parking and access to the Woking railway stations, namely Woking, West Byfleet, Brookwood and Worplesdon. Through these improvements and the personalised travel planning, it is envisaged that there will be a significant increase in travel by bike to these railway stations, especially for the people living within a short distance (up to 5km) from one of these local stations. Local bus services will also be highlighted as a possible mode of travel when the Business travel planning commences in the near future.

Re-branding

- 2.6 As the infrastructure is completed the routes will be re-branded on the Planets Theme, based on "*War of the Worlds*" by H G Wells who was resident in Woking during the late 1800's. The main cycle routes would be named after planets with a main link named after that planets moon, such as Saturn Trail with links off that route Titan, Calypso and Atlas. The new signing would also include timing instead of distance. This has been very successful in the existing Cycle Demonstration Towns. The Basingstoke Canal towpath will be the first to receive the new signs planned during March 2009.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The period between receiving the application forms and submission of the bid to Cycling England was just over one month, which did not allow for any public consultation. However, the 'Woking Cycling Town Bid Working Group' set up a series of meetings with other stakeholders including Woking Borough Council, Woking Cycle Users Group and Basingstoke Canal Authority. These meetings assisted the County Council in the bid submission.
- 3.2 The draft Plan and Programme (agreed by this Committee on the 16 September 2008 minute 46/08 refers) had been discussed with a number of key stakeholders, including Woking Borough Council, Woking Cycle Users Group and South West Trains but it had not been consulted any wider.
- 3.3 An exhibition was held on the 22 September 2008 at the Woking Cycling Town launch at the Lightbox Woking to obtain peoples views and again at the Tour Series Launch on 8 December 2008. However, as schemes are developed, separate consultations will be undertaken as appropriate.
- 3.4 The Basingstoke Canal improvements (Monument Road Bridge to Hermitage Bridge) have now been completed, and the next phases Pirbright Bridge to Hermitage Bridge and Monument Road Bridge to Sheerwater Road Bridge are the subject of a Planning Application.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 'match funding' allocation from Cycling England has been based on the population of Woking at 91,000 (to the nearest thousand), with an allocation of £4 per head for 2008/09 (as it is a half year from commencement of the Cycling Town), £8 for 2009/10 and £8 for 2010/11. This will provide a total of £1.82 million of 'match funding' for the Woking Cycling Town. This sum is dependant on the Cycling Town partnership providing at least equivalent funding. This funding can be

made up of Local Transport Plan / Local Allocation, Section 106 and Section 278 (development) or other contributions.

- 4.2 As the County Council determines its budget on an annual basis, the funding for 2009/10 and 2010/11 has not yet been fully identified. However, there has been significant Section 106 funding identified towards the Cycling Town, which will enable the project to make good progress towards its objectives.
- 4.3 With this in mind, the draft programme of works attached in Annex A indicates that there has been no funding provision from the County Council for 2009/10 and 2010/11, with only identified Section 106 and 278 funding supporting the 'match' funding. It is therefore recommended that the programme will need to be reviewed on an annual basis and the Local Committee (Woking) decide on the priority given to the elements of work included within the Woking Cycling Town against other Integrated Transport schemes which are funded using the Local Transport Plan devolved budget.
- 4.4 The Local Transport Plan funding item presented at this Committee today has provided members with a option to allocate £50,000 towards Cycle Woking from the 2009/10 devolved LTP budget or retain the £50,000 as part of the LTP (Integrated Transport Schemes) works programme.

5 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of Surrey's Local Transport Plan and is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. Funding for the Cycling Town will be in line with this vision whilst fulfilling its key commitments.

6 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report, but improved cycle security will be a key target for the partnership.

7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The programme should raise no equality implications, as all the proposals will seek to eliminate any perceived and or actual inequalities

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The 2009/10 Programme and indicative 2010/11 programme have been developed over the past few months in consultation with other key stakeholders, based on the successful framework bid that was submitted to Cycling England on 31 March 2008.

- 8.2 The Cycling Town partnership must not deviate away from the framework bid and not 'spread out' improvements across the district whereby the impact of the improvements would be much reduced. The six key objectives must be adhered to and therefore the concentration of the improvements will remain focused on these elements to ensure that 'gold plated' routes are established commencing from Woking railway station which has around 6.7 million passenger journey movements per annum (2006 data).
- 8.3 The Programme may require amending from time to time to reflect changing circumstances and members would be informed using regular updates.
- 8.4 The awarding of Cycling Town for Woking is a great opportunity for the partnership to make a real step change towards cycling with the significant funding focused into the area in a short period of time.
- 8.5 Cycling within Woking, based on the six permanent monitoring sites, has seen a 14% increase since 2004 (2004 to 2007 data) and a 6% increase between 2007 to 2008 comparable data. This must go some way towards the investment that has already been placed on cycling within the town by key partnership members.
- 8.6 The Local Committee is therefore requested to approve the recommendations set out at the front of this report.

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 The County Council as lead authority within the partnership must ensure that the elements of work within the programme are delivered within the 2008/09 to 2010/11 period and provide the funding to 'match' the funding from Cycling England.
- 10.2 Cycling England will monitor the work carried out as well as the levels of cycling being achieved within the Cycling Town.
- 10.3 As one of the new Cycling Towns, Woking will attract much media attention as well as interest from other Local Authorities nationwide and will be expected to exchange data and ideas with existing and new cycling towns.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Draft Cycle Working Plan and Programme

