

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director Policy and Corporate</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Jane Thompson</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Response to ECC Consultation on proposed Cycle Safety Schemes</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>Greenstead and Lexden and Braiswick</b>		

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report considers and responds to the Essex County Council (ECC) consultation on proposed cycle safety schemes at;

- Hythe Station Road/Greenstead Road
- Cymbeline Way, eastern and western sections.

1.2 It is recommended that the designs are reconsidered.

## 2. Recommended Decision

2.1 The Council recommends that the designs are reconsidered to ensure they meet the aim of reducing accidents at these locations.

## 3. Reason for Recommended Decision

3.1 The consultation provides an opportunity to comment on two schemes before they are implemented and suggest changes. Different solutions may decrease cycling casualty rates and help increase the number of people choosing to cycle.

## 4. Alternative Options

4.1 The Council could decide not to respond or to submit an alternative response. However, it is considered the response suggested provides an opportunity to influence ECC when deciding whether and where to invest in cycling provision in Colchester.

## 5. Background Information

5.1 ECC are commended for looking to improve conditions for cyclists to encourage safer cycling.

5.2 The Council works closely with ECC to plan, design and promote quality cycling schemes within the borough. Officers are currently working with ECC on the Local Cycling Action Plan for Colchester and the Walking Investment Plan for Colchester. Both of the routes subject to this consultation are included in the draft Cycling Action Plan and in CBC's Colchester Cycling Delivery Strategy. The Hythe area is also being considered for inclusion in the ECC Walking Strategy for priority investment.

5.3 The two schemes which form the consultation have been designed by ECC Road Safety team due to high accident rate at these locations. More details can be found here;

- [Proposed Conversion of Footway to Unsegregated Shared Footway/Cycleway – Greenstead Road and Hythe Station Road, Colchester](#)

[Statement of Reasons](#) and [Plan](#) for this consultation which ran until the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

- [Proposed Conversion of Footway to Unsegregated Shared Footway/Cycleway – A133 Cymbeline Way, Colchester](#)

[Statement of Reasons](#) and [Plan](#) for this consultation which runs to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**5.4 Proposed conversion of Footway to Shared Unsegregated Footway/Cycleway - Greenstead Road and Hythe Station Road, Colchester**

5.5 The consultation does not state the costs of the scheme and no costs benefit analysis is available to consider value of implementing the scheme.

5.6 This proposal is to convert a short section of footway to a shared unsegregated footway/cycleway on the south and west side junction of Greenstead Road and Hythe Station Road. This scheme does not benefit cyclists traveling northbound and southbound on Greenstead Road. The new cycle paths will not connect to existing cycle paths and do little to add to a 'connected network' in the area.

5.7 The plans do not show how a cyclist will access the short section of shared use path, and if cyclists are encouraged to cross oncoming traffic to access the path, then this is likely to increase their risk of collision. The benefits are not clearly expressed.

5.8 It is considered that it may be better to widen the existing footway where necessary from Greenstead Road's junction with the Greenstead Road roundabout for its whole length on the western side, to its junction with Hythe Station Road. This route is shown in the Colchester Cycling Action Plan. This is a busy route used by cyclists accessing the Wivenhoe Trail from the University as well Hythe Station. This will mean only one carriageway will need to be crossed and this will be the relatively quiet Hythe Station Road. A plan showing these suggestions can be found as Appendix 1.

**5.9 Proposed conversion of Footway to Shared Unsegregated Footway/Cycleway - A133 Cymbeline Way, Colchester**

5.10 The ECC Statement of Reasons suggests a pattern of collisions in the vicinity of Spring Lane Roundabout with a total of 8 injury collisions over a 3 year period. However, it is not clear if these collisions involved cyclists, or what the pattern is and therefore how this scheme will improve safety for cyclists.

5.11 The consultation does not state the costs of the scheme and no costs benefit analysis is available to consider value of implementing the scheme.

5.12 This proposal it to introduce a conversion of existing footway to a shared unsegregated footway/cycleway on A133 Cymbeline Way east and western sections. It is assumed that there are no physical changes to the existing cycle route, but formalising its designation as a shared use path.

- 5.13 The proposals are set out below, with officer comments and are illustrated on the appended plan:
- Cymbeline Way east north side - this will formalise an existing use and no further work is proposed.
  - Cymbeline Way to Spring Lane crossing points – consideration needs to be given on how safety can be improved for those crossing here due to high volume and high speeds of traffic at these points.
  - Spring Lane roundabout southside - it is proposed to widen the existing path which runs from the Cymbeline Way crossing point to Spring Lane. In the proposal it is not proposed to link the path to Spring Lane. We propose that the path is extended westwards and southwards to link to this important access way to Lexden Road and Church Lane serving Prettygate west.
  - Spring Lane to Cymbeline Way west crossing points – consideration needs to be given on how safety can be improved for those crossing here due to the high volume and high speeds of traffic at these points.
  - Cymbeline Way west – it is proposed to widen this section of path which runs from the crossing points to the entrance to Maltings Farm. It is suggested that this route should be continued south westwards to join London Road. This route is listed in the Cycling Action Plan as a priority route linking Tollgate and Stanway to Colchester Station.
- 5.14 A plan showing these suggestions can be found as Appendix 2.

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 6.1 It will be ECC responsibility to carry out an EQIA for these proposals.

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

- 7.1 New, well designed cycle schemes, benefit the following priorities in the Strategic Plan

### **RESPONSIBILITY...**

Encouraging everyone to do their bit to making our borough even better

- create new routes for walking or cycling and work with partners to make the borough more pedestrian-friendly.

### **OPPORTUNITY...**

Promoting and improving Colchester and its environment

- Promote initiatives to help residents live healthier lives.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 The Council is one of the consultees in the ECC engagement process. A draft response has been submitted to meet the deadlines on the understanding that changes may be necessary following this report.

**9. Publicity Considerations**

- 9.1 The decision may result in publicity because the Council is suggesting a different approach to ECC.

**10. Financial implications**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications for the Council.

**11. Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 Consideration has been given to community safety in the response.

**12. Health and Safety Implications**

- 12.1 Consideration has been given to health and safety in the response.

**13. Risk Management Implications**

- 13.1 N/A