



## Portfolio Holder for Planning and Sustainability

Item

3 November 2023

### Report of

Head of Sustainability

### Author

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### Title

ECC Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP)  
Route 7 Consultation

### Wards affected

All

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Essex County Council (ECC) as the Highway Authority is inviting responses to the proposed LCWIP Route 7, in which it is proposed to link Greenstead to Severalls Business Park with a quality walking and cycling route. The consultation asks for views on the proposed route.

## 2.0 Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 To thank ECC for the opportunity to respond to the consultation and anticipate that the Council's response will help fine tune the LCWIP Route 7, thereby helping target investment in this route which will encourage people to choose to walk and cycle; in turn helping reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in the area.
- 2.2 The Council approves of the proposed route, and would suggest that the LCWIP Route 7 could be even better if the following changes are included in the final plan -
- Link with LCWIP route 4 via new crossing of St Andrews Avenue. This will give Greenstead residents more direct access to the city centre.
  - Links into Highwoods Centre and into Colchester Business Park south (Wyncolls Road) giving more and better access to employment for Greenstead residents.
  - the proposed routes 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d set out in the recent [Colchester LCWIP consultation](#), which will link the route 7 to the local area giving even more work opportunities as well as study facilities at the University.

- 2.3 We understand that the criteria for LCWIP mean that walking routes will generally follow the existing road network due to these routes usually being more direct, better lit and better maintained than off road routes. However, links within communities will need investment if walking is to be encouraged along these routes.
- 2.4 It should also be noted that more direct and better crossing facilities, which give shorter journey times where roads sever walking routes, also help increase the number of people walking.

### **3.0 Reason for Recommended Decision**

- 3.1 The Council has several strategies and policies that reflect the importance it places on encouraging sustainability, including promoting sustainable modes of transport. Documents such as the Strategic Plan and the Local Plan demonstrate the Council's aspiration to encourage greater modal shift from private cars to sustainable transport. To give residents, visitors and employees genuine opportunity, a quality walking and cycling network needs to be available to provide realistic alternatives to the private car.
- 3.2 ECC are the responsible authority for this work; however, this Council would wish to support ECC in their role as the Highway Authority by working closely with them and other stakeholders to help increase the number of people walking and cycling for everyday journeys.
- 3.3 The work to improve access to local employment and study opportunities is in line with the Town Deal Heart of Greenstead project and will complement the work of Essex Pedal Power in making cycling available to everyone.

### **4.0 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 To not respond to the consultation. This would mean losing the opportunity to influence the design of the LCWIP Route 7.

## 5.0 Background Information

5.1 ECC are starting design work on the proposed improvements to a walking and cycling route linking Colchester Business Park at Severalls to Greenstead. As part of the design process ECC are inviting comments on the planned route to help inform the designs. The 8 km route starts at the Severalls Lane/Mill Road roundabout and finishes on Avon Way at the Greenstead roundabout junction.

5.2 The proposed improvements include installing –

- cycleways/footways that are separated from the road with one lane for cyclists and one lane for pedestrians. These are proposed at the following locations:
  - On Severalls Lane between the Mill Road roundabout and Princess Drive
  - On Ipswich Road between St John's Close and the Rovers Tye roundabout
  - On Ipswich Road between the Rovers Tye roundabout and Goring Road
  - At the Oak Tree Recreation Grounds where it meets Lime Avenue
  - On the southern section of Hawthorn Avenue
  - On the north side of Avon Way between the Hawthorn Avenue junction and the Greenstead roundabout
  - On the north side of the Greenstead roundabout which will then cross over St Andrew's Avenue and link up with Greenstead Road and Colne Causeway
- cycle road marking symbols and traffic signs to highlight to drivers that there are cyclists on the road. These are proposed at the following locations:
  - Along Princess Drive, Berkeley Close, Sinnington End and Bilsdale Close
  - Along Goring Road between Ipswich Road and Barnardiston Road
  - Along Barnardiston Road between Goring Road and the edge of the Oak Tree Centre recreation grounds
  - Along Sycamore Road from Lime Avenue and between Hickory Avenue and Hawthorn Avenue then continuing to Conifer Close and Blackthorn Way between Hickory Avenue (north and south)
  - The mid section of Hawthorn Avenue
- new signalised crossings at the following locations:
  - On all four arms of the roundabout at the Rovers Tye roundabout
  - On Harwich Road between the Oak Tree Centre recreation grounds and Upland Drive
- shared cycleways/footways for both cyclists and pedestrians at the following locations:
  - From Porters Brook to Oak Tree Recreation Grounds
  - On the northern section of Hawthorn Avenue
  - On the south side of Avon Way

- 5.3 The Council is pleased to work with the County Council in helping design and implementing the LCWIP route 7. The work has been collaborative, including a workshop involving the City Council as well as cycling and walking groups. The City Council has declared a climate emergency, and this work in helping design the LCWIP route 7 will help promote sustainable travel in Colchester as set out in the Council's Strategic Plan and will work towards tackling the climate emergency. The Council has been awarded Town Deal and Levelling Up funding and is currently in the process of developing a masterplan for the city and implementation of the LCWIP route 7 will help to deliver the connectivity objectives.
- 5.4 We look forward to continuing the collaborative working arrangements in further considering the design of the route, helping deliver the aspiration of increasing the number of people travelling actively and helping reduce car journeys in the city and beyond. This is in line with the Colchester Future Transport Strategy and our draft Active Travel SPD.

## **6.0 Policy Alignment**

- 6.1 The consultation response aligns with local policies, listed as follows:
- Colchester's Local Plan
  - The Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2026
  - The Council's Climate Challenge and Sustainability Strategy
  - Air Quality Action Plan
  - Climate Emergency Declaration (2019) and Climate Emergency Action Plan
  - Draft Active Travel SPD

## **7.0 Standard References**

- 7.1 The standard references to equality and diversity, human rights, consultation or publicity considerations, financial, community safety, health and safety or risk management implications are primarily for ECC to consider as the lead authority. Colchester City Council is a consultee to this document only. However, generally, quality routes for walking and cycling helps assist in tackling some elements of inequality including access to opportunities for those who cannot afford car ownership (as an example). Sustainable travel is part of a measure to promote equal access to employment and that improved health outcomes as part of the human rights agreements and sustainable development goals.

## **8.0 Strategic Plan References**

8.1 This response assists with implementing four of the Council's strategic themes of:

- [Respond to the climate emergency](#)
- [Deliver modern services for a modern city](#)
- [Improve health, wellbeing and happiness](#)
- [Grow our economy so everyone benefits](#)

## **9.0 Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

9.1 The availability of quality routes for walking and cycling, and encouraging people to choose to walk and cycle for everyday journeys instead of using the private car will help reduce carbon emissions as well as helping to tackle congestion and air pollution. For example, the average passenger vehicle emits about 404 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. The aim of reducing carbon emissions and nitrogen oxide align with the Council's Climate Challenge and Sustainability Strategy.

## **10.0 Background Papers**

ECC LCWIP Route 7 Consultation - [COLCHESTER - walking and cycling improvements linking Colchester Business Park to the Greenstead residential area - Essex County Council - Citizen Space](#)

ECC Plan of LCWIP Route 7 [ecc\\_early-engagements\\_route-maps\\_colchester-2.pdf \(essex.gov.uk\)](#)

ECC Colchester LCWIP Consultation [Local Cycling and Walking Routes - Essex County Council - Citizen Space](#)