

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JANUARY 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	A33 PINCH POINT SCHEME - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	MINSTER & WHITLEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The A33 Pinch Point Scheme has been the subject of various reports to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee over the past 12 months.
- 1.2 In August and September 2014 a tender process was completed in order to progress the scheme to construction.
- 1.3 At the November 2014 meeting of Policy Committee, Members approved the award of a contract to Fergal Contracting Co Ltd to construct the scheme.
- 1.4 Works commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 with completion expected early Summer 2015.
- 1.5 This report provides a progress update and advises of any future key programme dates.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the report

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The A33 Pinch Point Scheme has been the subject of various reports to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee over the past 12 months.
- 4.2 The scheme comprises of a range of measures to improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion along the corridor. This includes extending the left-turn filter lanes for exiting the A33 onto Rose Kiln Lane (north and southbound); providing more direct pedestrian and cycle links alongside the A33 crossing of the Kennet and providing an alternative pedestrian and cycle route to negotiate seasonal flooding along the A33 between Rose Kiln Lane and Bennet Road.
- 4.3 In August and September 2014, a tender process was completed in order to appoint a contractor to construct the scheme.
- 4.4 Following completion of the Tender process, in November 2014, Policy Committee approved the award of the contract to Fergal Contracting Co Ltd.
- 4.5 Works commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and are expected to run until early Summer 2015.
- 4.6 Phase one of the project focusses on extending the left-turn filter lane at the A33/Rose Kiln Lane north (near Matalan) junction, and extend the left and right turn filter lanes at the A33/Rose Kiln Lane south junction. This will help to alleviate traffic congestion at these important junctions.
- 4.7 The project team is aiming to minimise any disruption while the improvement works take place by limiting any necessary lane closures to off peak hours only (09.30 to 15.30) between January and May. Bus services running to and from Kennet Island, Madejski Stadium, Green Park and Reading International Business Park will run as normal.
- 4.8 The wider scheme will provide more direct pedestrian and cycle links alongside the A33 crossing of the River Kennet. A new raised pedestrian and cycle route along the A33 between Rose Kiln Lane and Bennet Road will also be built. The current path is affected by seasonal flooding and this new path will be built up at road level which will be usable all year round, as well as being safer for cyclists and pedestrians alike.
- 4.9 A temporary 30mph speed limit will be in operation on the A33 between Rose Kiln Lane south and the Bennet Road gyratory while the works take place.
- 4.10 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

6.1 The project has been communicated to the local community through local exhibitions and Council meetings.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None relating to this report.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council has carried out a equality impact assessment scoping exercise, and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The cost of the A33 Pinch Point Scheme contract is met by the DfT Pinch Point project.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports.

10.2 Policy Committee Report – November 2014.