



## GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

<b>Agenda Item 4</b>	Update on West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme Phases 1, 2, 3 and West Cheltenham Walking and Cycling Improvements
<b>Paper Author &amp; contact details</b>	Alan Bullock – Team Leader, Local Major Projects, Gloucestershire County Council <a href="mailto:Alan.Bullock@gloucestershire.gov.uk">Alan.Bullock@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Supporting Papers</b>	West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme – UK Cyber Business Park, Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 and West Cheltenham Walking and Cycling Improvements , Full Business Cases- <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wctis">www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wctis</a>  08 December 2020 LEP Board decision on the B4063/A40 Corridor Transport Schemes - <a href="https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/board-minutes-archive/">https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/board-minutes-archive/</a>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	The West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme – UK Cyber Business Park, Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 and West Cheltenham Walking and Cycling Improvements, Full Business Case is published alongside other information on the project website: <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wctis">www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wctis</a>
<b>Purpose</b>	To inform the Board of progress to date on the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme (WCTIS)
<b>Summary</b>	<p>At the LEP Board meeting on 4th December 2018 approval was given for GCC to become the promoters for the £22m funding allocation and to proceed with the Business Case preparation for the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme – UK Cyber Business Park project. The Board also provided Full Business Case approval in December 2019 for Phase 1&amp;2 and June 2020 for Phase 3 &amp; 4 and the Walking and Cycling Improvements (WCWCI) with £1.6 million funding allocated.</p> <p>On 08 December 2020, the LEP Board agreed that any potential underspend of the WCTIS and WCWCI projects can be used to improve cycle infrastructure on the B4063, in line with the overall objectives of these two projects.</p> <p>This paper summarises the progress made to date on the West Cheltenham Transport Scheme since Full Business Case approval.</p> <p><b><u>Project Programme</u></b></p> <p>Works for the entire West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme were programmed to be delivered by March 2022 in accordance with programmed dates in the Full Business Cases; with all works delivered in the 2021/22 financial year subject to a capital swop therefore ensuring all funding is secured. The</p>

construction works have been staggered to allow early entry from June 2020 with all works currently on Programme to be delivered by late 2021/early 2022.

**West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme Phase 1 and 2**

The County Council entered into a Construction Contract with Knights Brown Construction Limited with works commencing in June 2020. All works between M5 Junction 11 and Arle Court Roundabout remain fully on Programme and will be completed in Summer 2021.

A Contractor Share Event was hosted online in June 2020 and has now been viewed 350 times <https://youtu.be/ORflaalmYuQ> . The scheme has been received well and significant work has been undertaken to garner support from the local community with the contractor running a shuttle bus to support residents and local care home.

Work is complete on the Arle Court roundabout itself, and we are aiming to do the final resurfacing and traffic signals later in the spring.

The A40 eastbound arm is nearly complete too, and is also waiting to final resurfacing, along with new signs and lighting.

The A40 westbound road widening is over halfway there, with electric and internet diversions complete. The Park and Ride slip road is progressing well and from the air the site here has changed alot.



Photograph 1: Widening Works on Arle Court and approaches (January 2021)

Electricity and water main diversions have finished at Hatherley Lane and carriageway widening works are progressing well. Kerb line changes at the KFC corner are underway in preparation for reconstructing the road and laying a new footway here.

Agenda Item 4



Photograph 2: Widening of Carriageway on Hatherley Lane

Work has progressed well on the B4063 arm of the roundabout. Service diversions (like electricity and water) are now complete. Drainage works have been completed so surface water will not cause problems for road users, cyclists or pedestrians in future. The road has started to be reconstructed, which will eventually link up with the new Gloucester to Cheltenham cycleway.



Photograph 3: Widening on the B4063 for New Bus Lane

Construction of the retaining walls on the subway is moving forward on the north east side, and we aim to have the subway back open in summer 2021, if not sooner.



Photograph 4: Subway Retaining Wall Construction

### **Phase 3, 4 and Walking and Cycling Improvements Scheme**

The County Council entered into a Design and Build Contract with Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Limited on August 2020 for the delivery of remaining phases of the scheme. Work commenced on Programme in January 2021 and is anticipated to be completed in late 2021 or early 2022.

Substantive progress has been made in the first three months of the works Programme and a contractor share event was held in February 2021 to promote the scheme and answer stakeholder questions <https://youtu.be/5bjxeFvL7x8> which has received 267 views.

Works to divert utility apparatus has been including the diversion of a water mains between Telstar Way and Benhall Roundabout, which has allowed the new retaining wall base to be constructed along the edge of the GCHQ car park, which will support the carriageway widening and new shared use footway/cycleway to be constructed.



Photograph 5: Construction of GCHQ Retaining Wall

Work is fully underway between Arle Court Roundabout and Telstar Way for the carriageway widening and footway/cycleway works which has included the diversion of telecoms apparatus.



Photograph 6: Telstar Way Junction Widening Works

Carriageway widening works has been undertaken between Telstar Way and the approach to Benhall Roundabout and work is underway to widen the Eastbound Footway, a new crossing point is in the process of being constructed.



Photograph 7: A40 Eastbound Carriageway Widening approaching Benhall Roundabout

Brief Financial Summary

Works remain on target to be delivered under the £23.6million budget, it remains difficult to assess the amount of underspend until a scheme is fully finished. However, given that Phases 1 and 2 of the scheme will be drawing to a close in the summer we will be able to have a good idea of the underspend from the first two phases of these works in the next couple of months. This is likely to be in the order of £1million and will roll forward to build up the risk pot for the later phases of the works just started. However, although it is early days if the later phases go as well as the earlier phases we are hopeful that we will be able to make further savings which with the underspend from phases 1 and 2 will enable a reasonable sum of money to be put towards the B4063 Gloucester to Cheltenham Cycle scheme (as was agreed at the GFirst LEP Board on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020) to help offset the shortfall for this important scheme which joins on to the cycle works currently being installed as part of Phases 3 and 4. For clarity the savings realised have been achieved by good management and design which has meant that we have not had to use the monies set aside in the risk allocation. There has not been any devaluing or reduction in outputs, specification or quality of the proposed scheme in achieving these savings. Public consultation has now been completed on the first phase of the B4063 Gloucester to Cheltenham Cycle Scheme, which Gloucestershire County Council will commence delivery in 2021/22.

**Implications, impacts or risks**

The County Council has fulfilled all governance processes by gaining Cabinet approval on key decisions to award construction contracts; all planning obligations have also been fully met.

The Highways England M5 J11 works commenced on 29 Sep 2020 with closures on the circulatory roundabout at M5 J11. Whilst excessive delays were experienced on the approach to Arle Court on the first morning, traffic levels have since stabilised and no excessive queuing has been experienced since. As predicted, traffic has found alternative routes using M5 J10 and M5 J11a. HE and GCC continue to meet to work through managing this risk, delivery programme; traffic management arrangements, communication strategies etc.

Agenda Item 4

	The County has sought to fully manage all Covid-19 risks with contractual obligations passed onto the respective contractors and at present it is not considered a significant risk to delivery.
<b>Decision required</b>	None required. The Board is asked to note the current position.
<b>Recommendations</b>	N/A

For further information points raised in this Board paper, please contact Alan Bullock  
[Alan.Bullock@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.Bullock@gloucestershire.gov.uk)