

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Following concerns and feedback from public on the historic cycling ban through the underpass, Reading Borough Council is proposing to improve the cycle route linking between the north and south sides of Reading Railway Station, which currently presents a barrier with the prohibition of cycling in place along the subway. Due to improvements that are planned for increasing the height of the subway, this statutory consultation proposes to revoke this cycling prohibition, creating a shared-use (pedestrian/cyclist) facility.

Reading Borough Council will provide direct and well-lit cycle access to and from the town centre and Caversham, addressing lower emissions and the removal barriers to the greater use of sustainable, healthy transport options.

The restriction has been criticized and does not comply with Reading Borough Council vision which is to develop a sustainable transport system that creates an attractive, green and vibrant town with neighbourhoods that promote healthy choices and wellbeing. We have secured more than £2 million through the Government's Active Travel Fund to help us achieve this. We are working to improve walking, cycling and public transport facilities. As well as helping to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of everyone in Reading, these proposals are also designed to support the local economy and help tackle the Climate Emergency.