

Statement of Reasons: Sidmouth Street Cycle Lane

Since the original delivery of the then temporary Sidmouth Street cycle lane, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has increasing potential to be a key link to existing and future cycle network expansions. The scheme already links to the shared-use facilities along London Road and Wokingham Road beyond. It will provide a linking route toward the 'Tranche 2' scheme along Shinfield Road, for which implementation will commence later in 2022. It will also benefit future initiatives within our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan. More information about these can be found here: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/vehicles-roads-and-transport/transport-strategy/>

The Council is now carrying out a statutory consultation on whether or not this scheme should be made permanent. If a decision is made to make this permanent, officers will undertake investigations into options that will facilitate greater linking to the surrounding cycle network and aim to enhance the use of this facility. These works will be costed, designed and funding sources investigated. A report to an appropriate committee for scheme and spend approval would then follow.