

Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

Date: Friday 11th November 2022

Title: Feedback and Evaluation report – Maritime Corridor Improvements scheme

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1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the findings from the consultation regarding the Maritime Corridor Improvements scheme (Netherton, Bootle); and to describe the next steps in relation to engagement and consultation for the scheme.
- 1.2 The scheme will provide a series of highway network improvements on the Key Route Network (on the A59, A5038 and A5036) between Switch Island and the Netherton Way (A5038); it also aims to enhance the existing active travel infrastructure and connectivity throughout the wider area.
- 1.3 A public consultation was undertaken in Spring 2021, in accordance with the report presented to PECP in November 2020. The consultation was launched on Monday 1st March and originally was due to run until Sunday 28th March ; however, was extended by two weeks until Sunday 11th April.
- 1.4 All findings from the consultation have now been assessed and used to inform the design and business case development process. The analysis of the findings is provided in Appendix A.
- 1.5 In tandem, conversations have taken place with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) and Active Travel England (ATE). These discussions were predominantly in relation to the active travel elements; and the need to comply with the LTN1/20 design guidance and the Government's Gear Change – Walking and Cycling Plan. Discussions have also been had with National Highways on the potential active travel improvements on Dunnings Bridge Road (A5036), noting these elements have been slightly refined to concentrate on the area between Park Lane and Netherton Way and linking into developments around Atlantic Park.
- 1.6 This report therefore provides the feedback from the original consultation and describes the further engagement and consultation for this scheme.
- 1.7 The Panel have agreed to appraise the Feedback and Evaluation Reports in accordance with the standards of public engagement and consultation and will consider: -

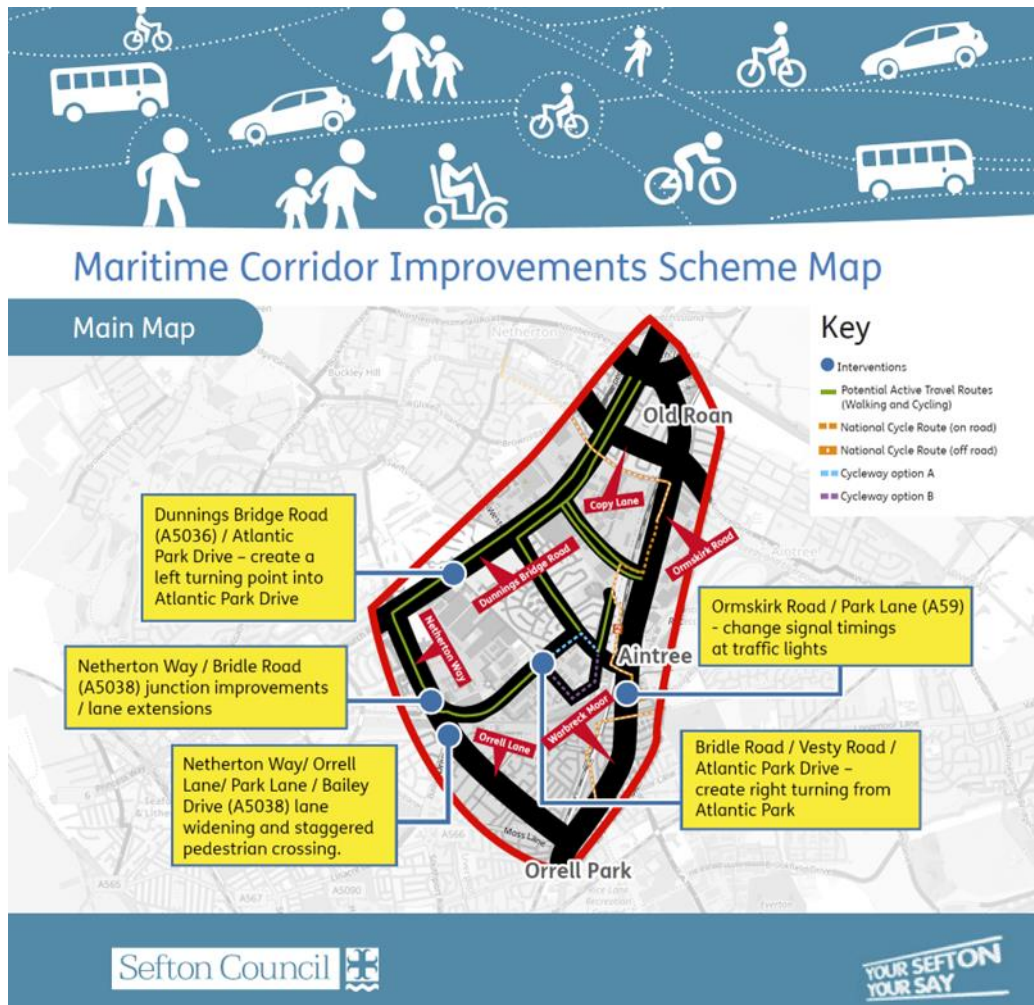
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- How the activity was carried out;
- the opinions of the people taking part on how they found the process;
- The number of people who took part and the costs of the different methods of getting them involved;
- How successful different methods were at getting the views of people who are not normally heard, for example, children, young people, and people with disabilities;
- How the results will be fed back to the public; and
- How will the results influence policies and service plans.

2. **Name of Issue you were Consulting On**

- 2.1 Figure 1 shows the map used for the early stage consultation for the scheme. The consultation described each of these improvements and the overall objectives of the scheme. Noting the designs were conceptual at this stage in the process.
- 2.2 The scheme is part of the Council's approved Capital Development programme and is also a pipeline scheme for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). Approximately £13m of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding has been allocated by the LCRCA for the development and delivery of the scheme. In addition, some elements of the scheme have been included in the LCRCA Levelling Up Fund Bid, the business case for which has been approved. This LUF allocation can be used against works to be delivered before March 2024. The balance of the project will be funded from the CRSTS settlement. The scheme has been developed to Outline Business Case (OBC) stage at which point a public consultation was undertaken. The scheme is now being developed to detailed design and is moving towards a Full Business Case (FBC) and therefore additional consultation and engagement is required.

Figure 1 Consultation Map for Maritime Eastern Access Improvements



3. The Consultation Process

- 3.1 A paper proposing the consultation activities was approved by the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel in November 2020.
- 3.2 Due to Covid-19 restrictions, most of the consultation was online utilising the Your Sefton Your Say (YSYS) survey platform and on the 'Transport' related pages on the Council's website.
- 3.3 In addition, hard copy leaflets were produced and distributed around the surrounding area to residents and businesses likely to be affected by the improvements. A social media campaign was also launched on the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts managed by the Council's internal Corporate Communications Team.

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- 3.4 All groups identified as Protected Characteristics were invited to give specific feedback or to arrange a tailored Focus Group. The Contact Centre telephone number and the transport planning email were utilised for those unable to access the online survey; or whom had specific comments or requests for further information.

4. Summary of the Consultation Results

- 4.1 There were 146 responses to the YSYS online survey and 10 responses directly from the Transport Planning email account. Each element of the scheme had a separate page on the online survey giving respondents the opportunity to comment on specific aspects.
- 4.2 Overall, there was support for the scheme ; however, some specific concerns were raised in terms of air quality and the congestion around the area. These were addressed in the online feedback. These were mainly around the scheme producing worse congestion or pollution. Within the feedback reassurances were made as to the intention of the scheme being to improve what is already there in terms of traffic volumes; and predict and provide for what may be needed in the future.
- 4.3 In addition there were some queries over the nature of the active travel elements and it was highlighted that at the consultation stage these were still very conceptual. Any design related comments have now been considered as the designs are being developed and the active travel elements will become integral to the scheme as it moves towards FBC. With this in mind more information on these elements will be provided at the next stage of consultation.
- 4.4 The key points from the consulted and subsequent responses are summarised in Appendix A, which is copy of the web article and information which was put on YSYS.

5. Feedback

- 5.1 Following on from the consultation process, the following took place:
- Cabinet and Ward Members were updated;
 - A web article which was placed on the Council's website;
 - A tailored section in the format of We Asked, You Said, We Are Doing / Did – was placed on the YSYS platform
- 5.2 It is now proposed to undertake further engagement to demonstrate how the scheme has changed since the early stage consultation and the emerging designs and ideas for the final scheme, as these are developed to the Full Business Case stage. This allows the Council to show how feedback has been considered and has helped to inform the process of development of the scheme. Further engagement is based on the

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following indicative timescales, noting that Cabinet and Ward Member have been updated.:

- **11th November** - PECP Panel– Panel to agree approach to FBC consultation
- **18th November 2022 - 20th January 2023** - Launch new consultation
- **February 2023 – April 2023** – Analysis and feedback of findings

6. Future engagement

- 6.1 The new consultation is an important part of the FBC process. Post the Covid 19 restrictions different methods of engagement will be explored including the potential for face to face open sessions with key stakeholders or representative groups as required.
- 6.2 A Comms Plan is being developed with Corporate Comms to highlight resources and key message of the consultation.

Key methods of engagement will include:

- Detailed Web article and section on Your Sefton Your Say – outlining the previous feedback and process - linking to a short online survey showing latest designs and asking for comments (noting the survey is not a referendum as the scheme has approval).
- A tailored email to Protected Characteristic groups, emergency services and community groups, including those with an interest in active travel.
- Printed versions of the survey will be made available at key sites within the scheme area – to be identified with Corp Comms and business will be asked to display information.
- External advertising will be explored to raise survey awareness.
- Council Officers will attend focus groups in person or online as requested by stakeholders.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel are recommended to
- a) Note the contents of the report and that the results of consultation have been used to amend and refine the proposals and feedback.
 - b) Approve the intention, timescales, and methods for future consultation.

Annexes

Appendix 1 – Feedback Report from early stage consultation