

Epsom & Ewell LCWIP

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For: Cllr Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth

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Subject: Epsom & Ewell Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan *[Stage 1 gateway completion – sign off]*

1. Encouraging communities to adopt more active lifestyles has become a major public health initiative in recent years to help tackle both physical and mental health issues. Encouraging us all to walk and cycle more for suitable trips has also been identified as an important tool in reducing short car journeys and the associated carbon emissions.
2. One area where these ambitions can be supported is through the development of improved cycling and walking infrastructure. Early cycle lanes and associated infrastructure were often designed and implemented to ‘fit in’ with other road users and fell short of providing quality facilities to encourage greater uptake of cycling by new and less experienced cyclists. The latest cycle infrastructure design guidance published by the Department for Transport (LTN 1/20) seeks to address this with the provision of high quality, attractive and safe cycle infrastructure including features such as lane separation and other safety measures to give cyclists more space and greater priority over other road users.
3. The development of LCWIPs form part of DfT’s current investment strategy for cycling and walking to help deliver the Government’s aim of doubling cycling by 2030. LCWIPs are a new, strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. LCWIPs and delivery of high-quality infrastructure for active travel are integrated with broader policy objectives for Surrey, including LTP4 and Climate Change Strategy, Community vision for Surrey, and the wider Place ambitions being developed across the county.
4. The purpose of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) is to identify and develop priority network routes for future investment (stage 1). Once the routes have been identified within the LCWIP, individual schemes are prioritised for phased delivery and then moved into stage 2 (feasibility) where designs are prepared in collaboration with local communities and other transport users. The scheme designs should then form part of future bids for capital funding with implementation taking place in stage 3.

5. Since September 2023, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has been working with Surrey County Council and their consultants (Atkins and Sustrans) on developing an LCWIP for the borough. The Stage 1 LCWIP for Epsom and Ewell is now complete and ready for taking forward into feasibility stage 2. This forms part of a wider programme being undertaken by Surrey County Council together with each district and borough partner to develop LCWIPs across the county.
6. The project has followed DfT guidance for developing LCWIPs, using a combination of national cycling and walking tools, evidence-based analysis, and local knowledge to develop the route plans. The stage 1 LCWIP output report includes a long list of walking and cycling routes that have been identified through this work. From this a shortlist of 5 cycling corridors and 3 Core Walking Zones have been prioritised, with concept stage designs produced for each route. Details of the proposed cycle/walking infrastructure and measures including estimate costings have been developed for taking forward through the feasibility design stage. This work has been reviewed by Sustrans to support the proposals.
7. Two periods of stakeholder engagement were undertaken to support and inform the process and route selections. These engagement sessions have been informed by stakeholders from within the local communities, representatives from the cycling and walking communities, borough and county members and officers from both authorities. All comments and feedback captured during these informative sessions with stakeholders has been considered fully by the project team and included within the final version report where it is within scope and relevant to this stage of the project work.
8. LCWIPs are a 10-year plan. All long list routes that have been identified at stage 1 but not prioritised here for immediate development through the feasibility stage are expected to be taken forward in the longer-term period, subject to available funding. The LCWIP plan itself can be viewed as a vehicle to support further investment for active travel in the local area, with walking and cycling routes that have been identified and prioritised for delivery through the LCWIP evidence-based process.
9. **The LCWIP project team including officers from Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council recommend that the LCWIP plan is taken forward to feasibility stage 2. Officers are seeking sign off for the stage 1 plan by Cllr Matt Furniss Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth.**
10. **County and borough council members have been engaged throughout the development of the LCWIP for Epsom and Ewell. A series of workshop sessions have been held with members to share the developing plans and seek local feedback to help inform the process and scheme design. The final version LCWIP report has been taken to the Epsom and Ewell Licensing and Planning Policy Committee meeting of 24 September 2024. At this meeting committee members agreed to endorse the LCWIP plan, with support for the proposed schemes being taken forward to formal gateway sign off by SCC cabinet member, and onto feasibility (LCWIP stage 2).**

11. Funding for the feasibility stage 2 work is secured against the Surrey Feasibility fund, with agreed joint contributions from Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. As scheme designs are progressed further stakeholder engagement and public consultation will be undertaken, alongside the need to secure approvals for any traffic regulation orders as required before scheme implementation (stage 3) can commence.