

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member - Environment
Date:	7 September 2010
Title:	Project Appraisal: Golden Lion Roundabout, Basingstoke - Accessibility Improvements
Reference:	1963
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this project appraisal is to provide pedestrian and cycle improvements in the vicinity of the Golden Lion Roundabout, Basingstoke. The site has recently had a number of large residential developments, in an area that was previously the southern Basingstoke bypass and is also access to a large industrial estate. This meant that previously it had low pedestrian and vehicle flows with resultant inadequate infrastructure.
- 1.2. The proposed improvements will help to encourage users to make journeys by non-motorised means. This will reduce emissions within the town and act to improve the health of local residents. In addition, a reduction in vehicle traffic will improve the quality of place.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MEMBER - ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT
APPRAISAL
(Externally Funded)

7 SEPTEMBER 2010

PROJECT: GOLDEN LION ROUNDABOUT, BASINGSTOKE –
ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

COMMENCEMENT DATE: JANUARY 2011
COMPLETION DATE: MAY 2011

PLANNED YEAR OF START IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAPITAL
PROGRAMME: 2010/11

1. **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this project appraisal is to provide pedestrian and cycle improvements in the vicinity of the Golden Lion Roundabout in an area which comprises a number of large residential developments.

2. **Contextual Information**

- 2.1 The area around the Golden Lion Roundabout is dominated by the former southern Basingstoke bypass, now a distributor road and a designated route for wide loads, providing access to the Viables industrial estate. The addition of a large number of new properties in the adjacent Skippetts Gardens has highlighted the shortfall in provision for access to local shops and services by non-motorised means.

3. **Introduction**

- 3.1 In 2008 the Skippetts Gardens site in southern Basingstoke was the location of a sizeable residential development of 127 houses. During discussions it was identified that the surrounding area had poor provision for pedestrians and cyclists. This area was partially upgraded through Section 278 works, but a series of future improvements was provided under a Section 106 contribution for Hampshire County Council to deliver.

- 3.2 The agreement for this Section 106 contribution was for the improvement of local facilities to mitigate for the addition of several hundred new vehicles as a result of the development. This was through improved connectivity for local journeys by non-motorised means.

4. **Details**

- 4.1 The centre of the proposed improvements is the area between the Golden Lion Roundabout and the Skippetts Lane residential development. The proposals are for the upgrade of the footways to a shared-use path on the north side of Grove Road and the addition of a new footway on the south. These allow access to the local shop, bus stops, primary school (St Johns) and tertiary education provider (Queen Marys College) as well as connecting cyclists with the National Cycle Network route 23 (NCN23) which passes nearby.

- 4.2 The improvements aid pedestrian crossing of the four arms of the Golden Lion Roundabout. A video recording was made of pedestrian and cycle movements in the vicinity of the roundabout

which confirmed that many pedestrians currently cross directly over it. Facilitating this movement directly was considered too dangerous for the mobility-impaired, so it was decided to aid crossing with islands, dropped kerbs and tactile paving over the arms of the roundabout instead, where speeds are lower. This means the preferred crossing route of pedestrians is only extended by a maximum of around 17 metres.

- 4.3 The upgrading of the north side of Grove Road to shared use for cyclists and pedestrians will connect users with the town cycle network and to regional destinations through NCN 23. This will allow safe and secure access to destinations significantly further afield than the scope of this scheme. A similar upgrading to shared-use on the south side of Grove Road would lead to problems with a nearby drainage ditch restricting the available highway land.
- 4.4 The service station on Grove Road is the primary local shop, selling everyday supplies for local residents. At present, access by any means other than motor vehicle is not supported by infrastructure and pedestrians from the neighbouring residential areas are forced to cross grass verges. These desire lines are clearly worn into the grass.
- 4.5 Quality Bus Partnership route Jazz 2 passes along Grove Road and new waiting facilities, with improved boarding and vehicle access, will be implemented alongside this scheme.
- 4.6 A location plan is attached and detailed plans will be displayed at the meeting.

5. **Targets and Outcomes**

- 5.1 The intended outcomes of the proposals are to satisfy the terms and intention of the Section 106 agreement and increase levels of non-motorised movement in the area of the Golden Lion Roundabout. This is through an increased sense of safety and security when accessing key local destinations, including the local schools, shops and services.
- 5.2 The success of the scheme will be measured by a satisfaction survey to be undertaken with users of improvements, to be carried out within the first year of installation.

6. **Standards**

- 6.1 The scheme has been designed in accordance with national and Hampshire County Council design standards and has been subject to a road safety audit following completion of the detailed

design. A further safety audit will be undertaken upon completion of the works.

7. **Statutory Procedures and Consultation**

7.1 In-depth consultation with elected members has occurred throughout the life of this project. However, due to the non-controversial nature of the proposals, and the obligation through the planning discussions to carry these improvements out, a formal public consultation was deemed unnecessary at earlier stages of the scheme.

7.2 A full public exhibition of proposals was held following the finalising of designs and resulted in support from around 80% of attendees at the exhibition and nearly 75% overall. This produced some useful minor changes to proposals.

8. **Policy Considerations**

8.1 The proposed scheme meets with Hampshire County Council's Corporate Objective of making Hampshire safer and more secure for all, whilst also contributing to the two supporting objectives of enhancing well-being and improving the quality of place.

8.2 The proposed scheme meets with the objectives of the current Basingstoke Environmental Strategy for Transport and the emerging Basingstoke Town Access Plan.

9. **Land Requirements**

9.1 No land acquisition required. All works to be confined within existing public highway limits.

10. **Alternative Arrangements**

10.1 Do nothing. This option was rejected because it does not meet the needs of local residents, especially of the Skippetts Gardens development. During the planning discussions, this new residential development was identified as having a serious pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure shortfall, which impedes access to local shops and services. The proposed scheme will address this issue.

10.2 Improve alternative routes. This option was rejected as the routes were considered to be best suited to addressing desire lines of pedestrians and cyclists and connecting them to local shops, services and onward connections.

11. Local Members' View

11.1 The local Member, Councillor Gurden, supports the proposed scheme. He believes it will encourage local residents to walk to local destinations, through making it safer and easier to access local shops, schools and services.

11.2 The adjoining local Member, Councillor Hussey, who is the Borough Councillor for this ward, also supports the scheme and its objectives.

12. Sustainability

12.1 The scheme will assist walking and cycling to local destinations, thereby encouraging access by non-motorised means. This will lead to reduced traffic and greenhouse gas emissions in the local area.

13. Financial Arrangements

13.1	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>£'000</u>
	Design Fee	77	Developer Funding	393
	Supervision	13		
	Project Works	303		
	Land	0		
	Total	<u>393</u>	Total	<u>393</u>

13.2	<u>Revenue Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
	Net increase in current expenditure	0.20	0.002
	Capital Charge	15.7	0.012
	Total Expenditure	<u>15.9</u>	<u>0.014</u>

14. Maintenance Implications

14.1 The proposed improvements will largely upgrade existing infrastructure. This will reduce the maintenance burden by providing newer and more durable materials.

- 14.2 The new infrastructure will be selected to require limited maintenance over the lifespan of the improvement.
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15. **Recommendation**

- 15.1 That the Project Appraisal to carry out accessibility improvements at the Golden Lion Roundabout, Basingstoke, to be externally funded at an estimated cost of £393,000, be approved.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Skippetts Gardens Accessibility Improvements report by Mott Gifford	Sun Alliance House, Basingstoke

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The proposed scheme will aid non-motorised users of the Golden Lion roundabout and will not discriminate on grounds of race, gender or disability.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The proposed scheme will have no effect on rates of crime or disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The proposed scheme will encourage walking and cycling for local journeys and the resulting reduction in vehicle use will positively affect the carbon footprint and levels of energy consumption in the Golden Lion roundabout area.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

As the proposed scheme is designed to encourage walking and cycling for local journeys, it will aid the reduction in emissions of gases that enhance climate change. It will therefore help society be better able to moderate and cope with the future implications of these changes.