PTE/17/65

East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee 30 November 2017

Upgrade of Blackhorse Lane cycle route, Broadclyst

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) The proposals shown on plans A17001/14, A17001/18 and A17001/11 included in Appendix I are approved for construction at an estimated cost of £205,500;
- (b) Delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, in consultation with the relevant Local Member, to approve minor changes to the scheme design.

1. Background/Introduction

This report seeks approval for improvements to the walking and cycling route along Blackhorse Lane, which will be complementary to a number of neighbouring strategic transport improvements, including the Tithebarn Link Road, E4 cycle route in Exeter and the traffic calming proposals for Anning Road, Exeter Science Park.

2. Proposal

The Tithebarn Link Road Phase 2 (currently being constructed) scheme included approval to prohibit motor vehicles west of the last house on Blackhorse Lane. This will remove all vehicular traffic except those associated with the dwellings on Blackhorse Lane and provides an opportunity to enhance the route for pedestrians and cyclists. There is funding associated with the Highways England Growth and Housing Fund (grant) project to deliver these improvements.

The proposals are shown on drawing nos. A17001/14, A17001/18 and A17001/11 included in Appendix I and comprise:

- Resurfacing the existing foot/cycle way and cutting back the vegetation to maximise width
 of the carriageway along Blackhorse Lane between its junction with the old A30 and the
 Redhayes Bridge (A17001/18).
- Provision of a new, road crossing (also known as a 'tiger' crossing), which allows pedestrians to use the zebra-style crossing and cyclists to use an adjacent, separately marked crossing (A17001/11). This allows priority for pedestrians and cyclists across Anning Road (Exeter Science Park) as part of the strategic pedestrian/cycle route (A17001/11).
- Kerbworks and a new footway created at the junction of Blackhorse Lane/Honiton Road to improve width for pedestrians and cyclists. Vegetation will also be cut back to increase visibility of cyclists. The vehicular access would also be narrowed reflecting the light traffic use of the junction (A17001/14).

In combination with the E4 strategic cycle route, which is currently on site, this will deliver approximately 3km of upgraded pedestrian/cycle route. It will benefit pedestrians and cyclists travelling between the city centre and developments east of the motorway, including Exeter Science Park, SkyPark, Lidl development, Exeter Airport and Cranbrook, which are all connected by a shared use path and are within reasonable walking and cycling distance. There will also be improved access to education as proposals at Monkerton and Tithebarn Green include proposals for primary schools served off the path. In addition, there would be improved access to the countryside for leisure, with East Devon District Council developing plans for a Clyst Valley Trail as part of a Regional Park, which would be accessed via the route.

3. Options/Alternatives

The alternative option to these proposals is for no works to be undertaken. The lane would more quickly become overgrown, reducing visibility and potentially increasing the risk of conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and people accessing their properties on Blackhorse Lane.

The proposed scheme takes into account and is complementary to the following adjacent schemes, which are shown illustratively in Appendix II:

- Tithebarn Link Road.
- Car park/park and change site on land at Tithebarn Green adjacent to Exeter Science Park. This scheme will include cycle storage and electric bike stand facilities.
- Wider improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes in the area including the E4 route from the junction of Hollow Lane/Cumberland Way to the Exhibition Way junction.
- Traffic calming measures on Anning Road, Science Park aimed at improving pedestrian/cycle accessibility and minimising the dominance of vehicles throughout the park development.

4. Consultations/Representations

The scheme has been developed in consultation with Exeter Science Park Limited, Eagle One and East Devon District Council. The prohibition of motor vehicles for through traffic movements on Blackhorse Lane was previously consulted upon and approved in relation to the Tithebarn Link Road scheme.

5. Financial Considerations

The scheme is being funded as part of the package of highway works agreed as part of the Tithebarn Link Road Highways England Growth and Housing Fund (GHF) project. The total project budget is £8,617,617 and comprises £4,037,178 from Highways England Growth and Housing Fund grant and £4,580,439 s106/developer contributions.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

In combination with neighbouring schemes (i.e. the Park and Change site at Tithebarn Green, traffic calming measures on Anning Road and the E4 cycle route), it will have a positive impact by encouraging more people to cycle and walk thereby reducing CO₂ and other airborne pollutants.

It will improve pedestrian/cycle facilities for leisure, education and commuter trips, particularly between residential areas of Cranbrook, Tithebarn Green, Monkerton and employment areas of Sowton, SkyPark, Science Park, Exeter Airport and the Lidl development.

7. Equality Considerations

The proposals take into account age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers and marriage/civil partnership status. The proposals improve accessibility for all, and in particular provide safe and convenient crossings for people with disabilities or reduced mobility. The improved visibility will increase security for pedestrians and cyclists who may otherwise feel uncomfortable or unsafe using the route.

8. Legal Considerations

The traffic regulation order for the prohibition of motor vehicles on Blackhorse Lane was made and sealed following Cabinet's approval of the Tithebarn Link Road Phase 2 scheme in May 2015. A notice will need issuing for the parallel (pedestrian/cycle) crossing on Anning Road. There are therefore no specific legal considerations associated with this scheme.

9. Risk Management Considerations

Normal risk management for the construction of schemes will apply.

10. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased cycling and walking, which is associated physical and mental health benefits. Improving activity through walking and cycling was one of the achievements identified in Devon County Council's 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 to 2019'.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

It is considered that the proposed pedestrian/cycle improvements will complement wider strategic cycle improvements being delivered in Exeter and will boost the attractiveness of walking and cycling as an alternative to the car for short distance leisure and commuting trips, particularly between new strategic housing and employment sites on either side of the M5. With new local schools planned at both Monkerton and Tithebarn Green in close proximity to the Hollow Lane/Blackhorse Lane corridor, it would also provide children with a safe, off-road journey to school option.

Dave Black Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Division: Broadclyst

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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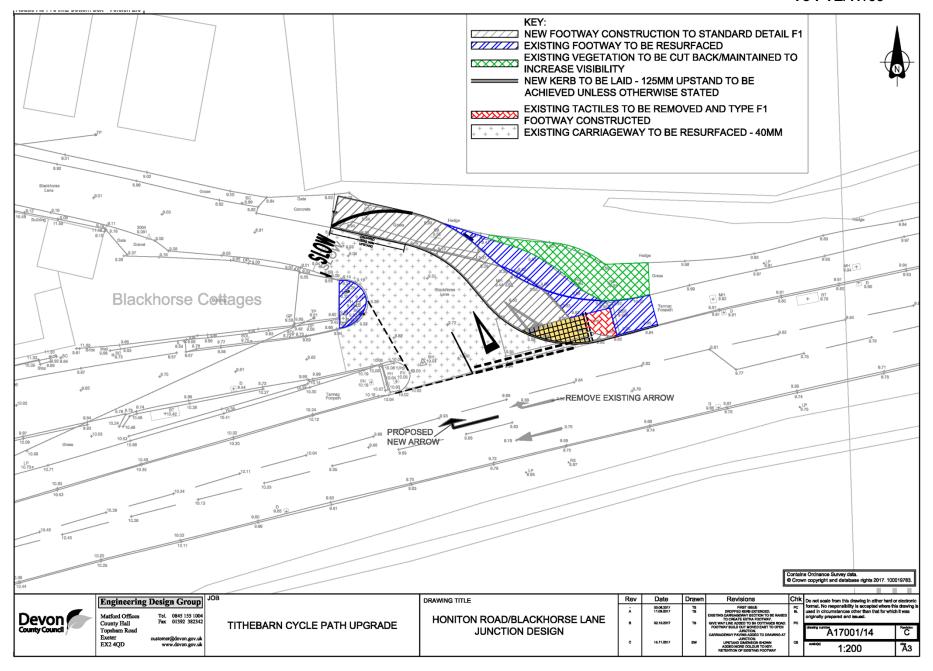
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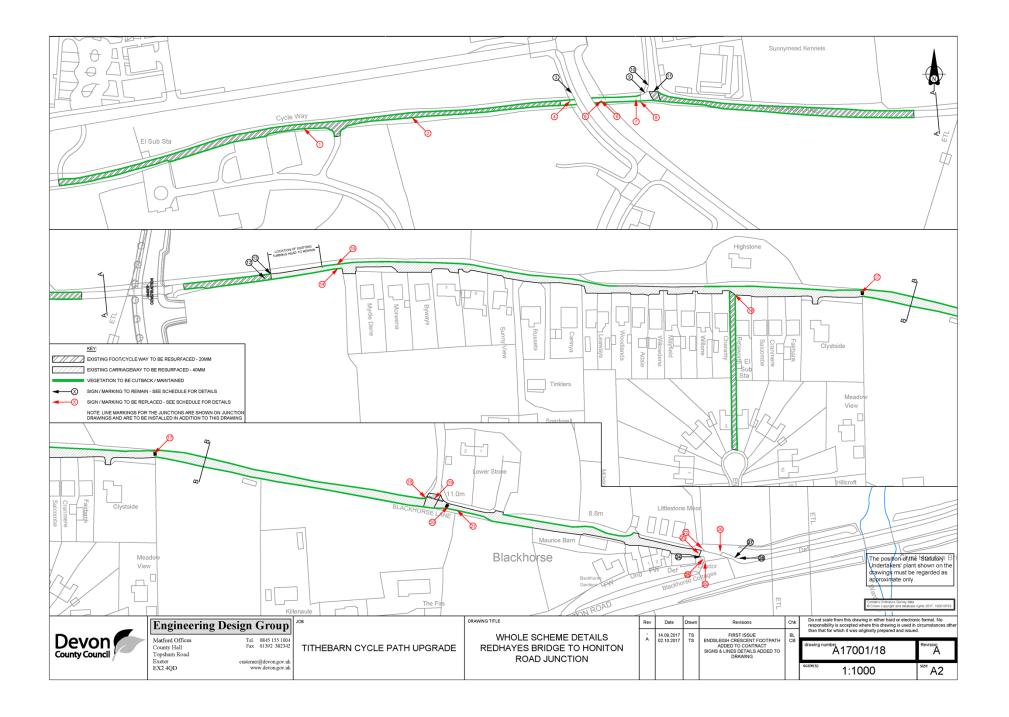
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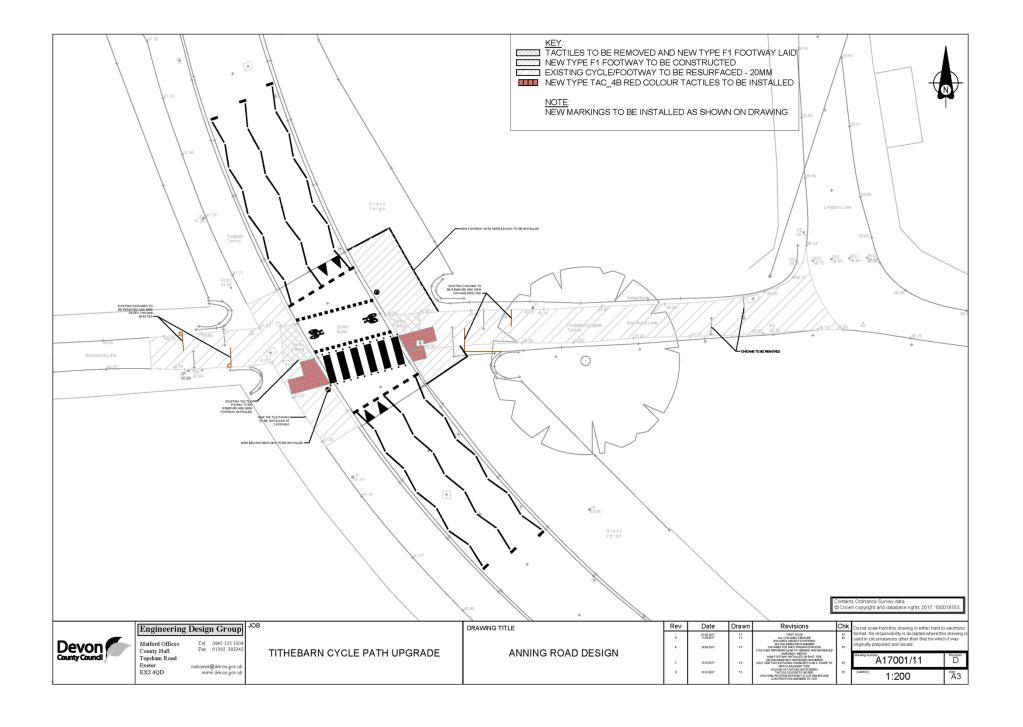
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Appendix I To PTE/17/65







Appendix II: Links with other projects

