

Who are the GFirst LEP?

Set up by central Government in 2011 to work with local businesses, local voluntary organisations and Local authorities, the role of GFirst LEP (Gloucester First Local Enterprise Partnership) is to drive sustainable economic growth in the county, and by doing so, create jobs and business opportunities. Run by a voluntary board of senior executives and elected representatives from Business and Local Authorities and a small team of full time staff. Based in the Growth Hub at the University of Gloucestershire. The LEP also supports a number of business sector groups that provide opportunities for business to “talk to government” directly.

Why can't these funds be spent on routine maintenance, such as filling potholes?

These funds are specifically allocated for “Transformative Projects” that will drive economic development, focussed on transport infrastructure, skills infrastructure, business growth and remediation work on land to bring sites into use for housing and business use.

These works are going to disrupt my journey, what will you be doing to help?

Whilst it is too early to confirm the exact arrangements required to manage traffic during the works, we will be maintaining access to businesses and residents and will be working hard to minimise disruption to the travelling public. To minimise disruption during the construction period, lane closures will be kept to off peak to help improve traffic flow at the busiest times.

How will you avoid creating excessive noise & air pollution during construction?

As part of the tender process, for construction of the scheme we will set out requirements for methods of working. This will set out the approach to minimise and mitigate the impacts of noise/pollution etc. during the construction period.

How does this scheme accommodate the anticipated new development in the area?

One of the schemes primary objectives is to help alleviate existing congestion and accommodate for future demand on the highway network. The planned improvements will increase the capacity of the network as a whole and therefore help to accommodate for future growth.

Do the proposed schemes include the previously withdrawn A40 Benhall Bus Lane scheme?

The proposed schemes do not use any of the highway previously associated with the westbound A40 Benhall Bus Lane scheme: the council decided not to continue its bid for funding to build this in November 2016.

Will cyclists, taxis and private hire vehicles be allowed to use the new bus lane along B4063?

Yes cyclists, taxis and private hire vehicles will be able to use the bus lane.

Have you considered the potential environmental impacts of the scheme?

Yes. Site survey work will be carried out in order to assess the potential environmental impacts, and how the scheme design can mitigate these. The environmental assessment will consider all the environmental impacts of the scheme, and how these are to be mitigated.

What will be the impact on the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?

The proposed schemes are located within the Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The extents of the current AQMA are under review and monitoring data published in the Annual Status Report 2018 confirmed that air quality objectives are only exceeded in the north of Cheltenham town centre.

By addressing existing and future traffic congestion the proposed schemes should lead to a reduction in associated pollutant emissions. Improving the wider bus and pedestrian and cycle infrastructure around the scheme also brings the potential increased shift to more sustainable transport methods. However, it is recognised that the improvements will also increase traffic capacity, and in turn increase total traffic flows, which could lead to an increase in emissions. Further air quality assessments will be carried out to fully assess how the proposed work will affect current conditions at sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the schemes. This will include examination of how construction traffic and dust emissions may affect neighbouring properties. The project team are liaising with CBC's local Environmental Health Officer, to confirm the appropriate criteria for the affected road network and to confirm the appropriate assessment methodology and mitigation for air quality assessment and EU compliance assessment.

Where can I find out more about the proposed schemes?

Gloucestershire County Council will hold two 'Public Share' events, these will provide the opportunity for the public to provide feedback, see the latest plans and to liaise with members of the project team who have been involved in the management and development of the schemes.

1. Jurys Inn, Gloucester Rd, Cheltenham GL51 0TS
Tuesday 18th June, 2pm to 7pm
2. St Marks CE Junior School, Robert Burns Avenue, Benhall
Thursday 20th June, 5:30pm to 9pm



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