

Overview

West Cheltenham Walking and Cycling Improvements (WCWCI)

The West Cheltenham Walking and Cycling Improvements (WCWCI) scheme is a LEP funded project with an allocated budget of £1.6 million, consisting of a number of routes across Cheltenham.

This significant upgrade of walking and cycling infrastructure will be delivered through a new improved standard of cycleway and footway design for Gloucestershire. This will be a 'flagship' scheme, similar in concept to completed schemes in London and other cities throughout the UK. The majority of the route proposed will be a segregated facility, with cyclists and pedestrians in designated areas. There is also a proposed 'Quietways' route, (shown in pink and light blue). The 'Quietways' route gives priority to pedestrians and cyclists at some of the junctions, and will also link to other sections of the network.

The overall purpose of the WCWCI scheme is to contribute towards the objectives of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan, and to complete a continuous walking and cycling route between Gloucester and Cheltenham Railway Stations.

The improvements will aim to increase walking and cycling numbers in Cheltenham, support the future residential and employment development in the area and promote more sustainable modes of transport, whilst delivering an acceptable return on the investment.

The programme for building the WCWCI scheme will tie-in with the construction of Phases 3 & 4, to enable cost savings and minimise disruption.

The scheme will upgrade the existing routes for pedestrians and cyclists to provide safer and more direct routes across Cheltenham, and will link key areas such as GCHQ and Cyber Central with the town's main transport hub (Cheltenham Spa Railway Station), and to central Cheltenham.

Benefits:

- Provide a continuous cycle route (Gloucester to Cheltenham) that ties in with the Highways England proposed Cycle Route, along the B4063 between Gloucester Railway Station and Arle Court;
- The innovative design will further improve the facilities for walking and cycling in Cheltenham. The scheme is designed to benefit all levels of users, including less-confident cyclists and those with limited mobility;
- The WCWCI scheme will provide improved cycleway and walking infrastructure, and promote modal shift from car travel to walking and cycling;
- Support Gloucestershire County Councils' Climate Emergency Declaration and Climate Change Strategy;
- Evidence suggests there are positive links between physical activity and productivity, and the scheme will contribute towards a healthier local population.

