

Programme

The following schedule shows the anticipated scheme delivery programme.

Selection of Contractors

Gloucestershire County Council will procure these works through Open Tender to select the Contractors that meet GCC's quality threshold and offer the best value for money. The Contractors selected will be required to be members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, to ensure that they are sensitive to local concerns.

Regular Liaison

Prior to the site works commencing, there will be further publicity and communications with the local community. During the site works Gloucestershire County Council and the Principal Contractor responsible for the work will have representatives on site and their contact details will be made available to ensure feedback and any concerns are addressed promptly.

West of Cheltenham Improvements	2019	2020				2021			
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
(Phase 1&2) - Construction									
(Phase 3&4) - Design									
(Phase 3&4) - Procurement									
(Phase 3&4) - Construction									
Walking & Cycling Improvement									

Environment

Approach to Assessment and Appraisal

As part of the planning process, a full assessment of the environmental impacts of the scheme has been prepared, and submitted to the planning authority, Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC). The full Environmental Assessment will be reported as part of the Full Business Case. This will include proposals to mitigate for any potential adverse environmental effects, and also explore opportunities for environmental enhancements to be incorporated into the design.

Air Quality

The Proposed Schemes are located within the CBC Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The extents of the current AQMA are under review, however, monitoring data published in the Annual Status Report 2018 confirmed that Air Quality Objectives are only exceeded in the north of Cheltenham town centre. Air Quality assessments have indicated there are no significant adverse effects, however, modelling is still ongoing to quantify how the scheme will affect current conditions at sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the schemes. The Project Team have liaised extensively with Cheltenham Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers to confirm the appropriate criteria for the assessment methodology and mitigation.

Ecology

Both a desktop assessment and an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey have been undertaken by suitably qualified ecologists. There are four statutory sites within 2km of the works, of which the closest is 900m away from the scheme. There is expected to be no impact from the scheme on any statutory sites. Further species surveys will be carried out from March-September to identify the presence of any protected or invasive species that may affect the proposed works, in order that any potential effects on biodiversity can be mitigated.

Noise

The proposed schemes lie within numerous 'Noise Important Areas', and the additional flows and speeds have the potential to increase noise in the local area. The modelling to quantify the exact change in noise levels at local receptors is ongoing. When this is known, measures will be considered to ensure potential effects are properly quantified and reported in the Full Business Case.

Trees

The proposed works will lead to the removal of some of the trees in the vicinity of the highway. Ongoing discussions between the design team and arboriculturalists will ensure that root damage caused by excavation works near other trees will be minimised. All trees removed as part of the scheme will be replaced on a 2 for 1 basis in the local area, whilst a comprehensive review of opportunities for planting is being undertaken to soften the existing highway landscape.

