

Committee(s): Epping Forest and Commons Committee Epping Forest Consultative Group	Dated: 14/09/2023 18/10/2023
Subject: A104 Road Safety Scheme (SEF 22/23)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	1,460,000
What is the source of Funding?	External funding
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of: Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director, Environment	For Information
Report author: Jacqueline Eggleston, Epping Forest / Mark Atkinson, Essex Highways	

Summary

This report presents proposals for a road safety scheme along the A104 between Buckhurst Hill and the Wake Arms Roundabout. The road safety scheme will include road crossing points connecting car parks and defined tracks to the surrounding Forest area; a section of high friction surface on the approach to Robin Hood roundabout; alteration to the existing speed limits and installation of average speed cameras. The scheme is funded through the Department of Transport's (Dft) Safer Roads fund and is ring fenced for the section of the A104 in the county of Essex. Essex Highways are leading on the scheme and will shortly commence an engagement exercise with key stakeholders.

At this stage it is not envisaged that Epping Forest land will be permanently required to enable the scheme however there will be a requirement to erect street furniture within the verges and the installation of landing areas and pathways linking the new crossing points which at this point are proposed to be carried out under license. Car park entrance improvements that are already planned will accommodate much of this and these are proposed to be scheduled at the same time as works on the highway to reduce inconvenience to road users.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report

Main Report

Background

1. In April 2023, the government announced £50m spending programme, which included £1,360,000 identified for a road safety scheme along the A104.
2. The funding was earmarked specifically for the A113 which was identified by the International Road Assessment Programme (IRAP) as one of Britain's top 75 most persistently high-risk A roads.
3. In February 2022 Essex Highways completed the application pack for the funding, which was approved.
4. Essex Highways have been working with officers in Epping Forest as well as with Epping Forest District Council to develop proposals for the safety scheme.

Current Position

5. A series of surveys have been undertaken by Essex Highways over the last 3 months. These have included Non-Motorised Users origin and destination, traffic flow, speed and topographical surveys.
6. The findings are summarised in Appendix 2.
7. Consequently, they have now been able to complete outline proposals for the road safety scheme, taking in to account the results of the surveys and will be completing the costing of these to ensure they fall within the available Dft budget

Proposals

8. A draft proposal for the road safety scheme is shown on the map attached as Appendix 1.
9. The scheme proposes:
 - Average Speed Cameras to enforce the existing 30mph and 40mph speed limit
 - A northwards extension to the existing 30mph speed limit in Woodford to cover the Rangers Road junction which also includes average speed cameras
 - a series of traffic islands along the length including crossing points at the key forest crossing points, working with conservators to provide an integrated approach with the car park access improvements.

Key Data

10. The total cost of the road safety scheme is projected to be £1,460,000 of which £1,360,000 is met by the grant from the DfT Safer Roads Fund and match

funding up to £100k and officer time to project manage the scheme is being met by Essex Highways.

11. Approximately £80,000 has been identified in local risk to pay for car park entrance improvements within Epping Forest.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

12. These changes support the Corporate Plan Policy aims and priorities.
 - Shape outstanding environments

Financial implications

13. The £1,460,000 cost of the road safety scheme is fully funded by the Department for Transport and is ring fenced for the A104 only within the County of Essex . Car park entrance improvements and surfacing works are already planned to be met from local risk at an estimated cost of £80,000 in this financial year. It is planned that these works will be managed to coincide with the delivery of the road safety scheme thereby reducing additional costs that would have had to be met from local risk such as road closures and planning permissions.

Legal Implications

14. Planning permissions will be sought by Essex Highways.

Property Implications

15. The final scheme is likely to require wayleaves or licences to install new signage and highways infrastructure on Forest verges. This will be subject to a further report, however, a substantial amount of existing signage already exists and will need replacing.

Charity Implications

16. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Resource Implications

17. Involvement in the scheme will be met from existing staff resources.

Risk Implications

18. A full risk register has been prepared as part of the road safety scheme.

Equalities Implications

19. The road safety scheme will create island refuges which is likely to improve safety at road crossings for the less physically able.

Climate implications

20. The road safety scheme will reduce speeds along the A104 which cuts through the heart of the Forest. This will help to reduce emissions on this stretch of road.

Security implications

21. Security risk will be covered by the project risk register.

Conclusion

43. The road safety plans for the A104 are in early stages of planning, however the need to deliver safety measures are of a national priority. Co-operation between the Conservators, Essex Highways and Epping Forest District Council will be key to the successful delivery of the scheme.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Scheme Plan
- Appendix 2 – Survey Summary

Background Papers

None

Jacqueline Eggleston

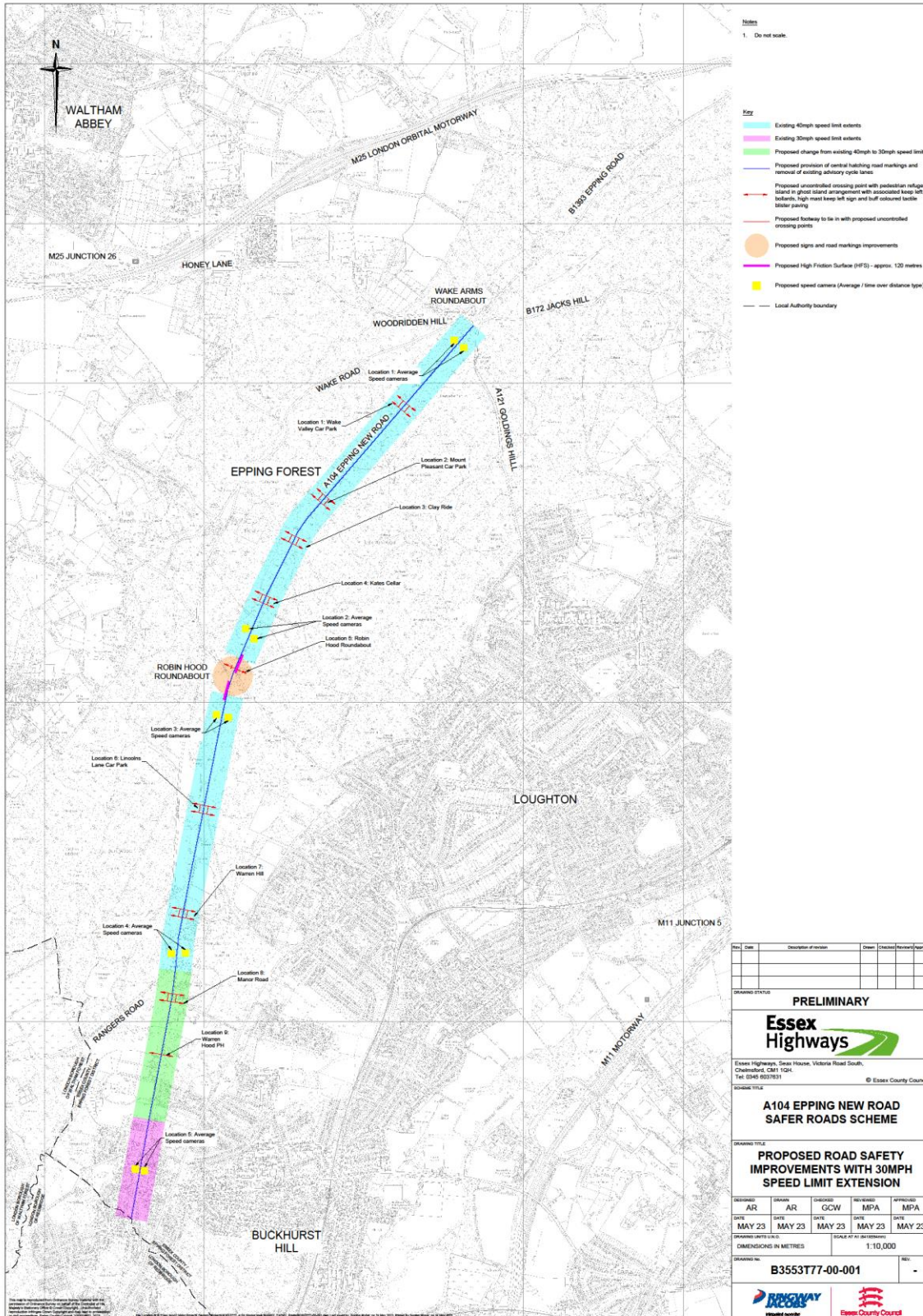
Head of Business Development

T: 020 8532 5315

E: jacqueline.eggleston@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Scheme Plan



Appendix 2

Survey Summary

The following Non-Motorised User surveys have been collected:

- A104 at Mount Pleasant Car Park
- A104 at Lincolns Lane Car Park
- A104 at Wake Valley Car Park
- A104 at Robin Hood Roundabout
- A104 at Clay Rides path
- A104 at Kate's Cellar path
- A104 at Manor Road
- A104 at Warren Hill pub

The following 7-day Automatic Traffic count surveys have been collected:

- A104 at Wake Valley Car Park
- A104 at Lincolns Lane Car Park
- A104 at Clay Ride path
- A104 at Manor Road