

Transforming Cities Fund Programme

Programme and Funding Update

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1. St Ives Local Improvement Fund

1.1 Overview

The St Ives Local Improvements schemes emerged from the A141 and St Ives Transport Studies that were conducted in 2018. These studies produced a joint Options Assessment Report, presented at CPCA and CCC committees in August and September 2020 respectively.

A further paper to the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure committee was presented in March 2022 recommending amongst others:

- Approval to drawdown of £2.3m to start delivery of the St Ives Local Improvements scheme, and delegate authority to the Head of Transport and the Chief Finance Officer to agree a Grant Funding Agreement with CCC.

On April 26th, 2022, CCC's H&T committee approved a paper recommending the establishment of a Member Engagement Group for the scheme and acceptance of £2.3m of funding from CPCA to allow design, programming and delivery of the St Ives Local Improvements scheme.

The main objectives of the scheme are to reduce congestion on the main A1123 and A1096 corridors in the area, reduce unwanted traffic through St Ives Town Centre, and improve bus journey times through the Town Centre. It consists of 5 packages of work:

The 5 packages agreed to be funded as part of this programme are:

- Package 1 – St Ives Town Centre – Package of schemes including:
 - Introduction of a 20mph speed limit across St Ives Town Centre.
 - Changing priorities and localised road widening at the Ramsey Road / North Road, Globe Place / North Road / Broad Leas and Globe Place / West Street / East Street junctions.
 - Changes to on-street parking restrictions in the town centre area, to reduce illegal and inconsiderate parking.

- Focus on reducing congestion pinch points in the town centre, rat running and improving bus access.
- Package 2 – Silvaco West Roundabout Improvement (A1123 / B1040) and right turn ban Needingworth Road to A1123 St Audrey Lane
 - Silvaco West (A1123 / B1040) roundabout improvements, including the replacement of the roundabout at the A1123 St Audrey Lane / B1040 Somersham Road junction with traffic signals.
 - A right-turn ban for all traffic from Needingworth Road onto A1123 St Audrey Lane. To retest the impact of the recommendations, consider possible alternative options and recommendation of a preferred option.
- Package 3 – Bus Stop Improvements including:
 - 22 priority bus stops;
 - Removal of redundant bus stop infrastructure;
 - Non-priority bus stops and hail and ride.
 - To make travel by public bus services in St Ives a more attractive option by improving the bus stop infrastructure facilities
- Package 4 – Walking and Cycling Signage Improvements
 - Package of walking and cycling signage improvements. a) 41 new signs; b) Removal of redundant infrastructure; and c) Consideration of conducting a quality audit of pedestrian and cycling routes.
 - To improve consistency and connectivity of walking and cycling signage throughout St Ives to encourage increased levels of walking and cycling.
- Package 5 – Non-Motorised User (NMU) Routes Development Study
 - Audit, feasibility, scoping and optioneering and development of a network of active travel routes in and around St Ives.

Following further development the following elements were withdrawn from the St Ives Local Improvement programme, resulting in a predicted underspend of £1.2m:

- Package 1 – Introduction of a 20mph speed limit across St Ives Town Centre – this is now being delivered as part of the Transforming Cities Programme along with a package of 20mph schemes across Cambridgeshire.
- Package 2 – Following further modelling considering future traffic growth forecast for St Ives and the surrounding area, the proposed signalised junction was found to perform worse than the current roundabout from 2024 onwards. On 4 October 2023, Project Board agreed to remove Package 2 from the programme following a recommendation from the Project Manager. Consequently, implementation of the right turn ban of traffic from Needingworth Road on to A1123 St Audrey Lane was not feasible without the roundabout signalisation and was also removed from the workstream.

Removal of Package 1 20mph scheme and package 2 resulted in a predicted underspend of **£1.36m** on the programme. The project team has reviewed alternative workstreams to be delivered in St Ives utilising this underspend, outlined further in the section 1.2 of this report.

1.2 Proposed Additional Schemes

a. The Broadway, St Ives

The Broadway was originally proposed as one of the Active Travel Tranche 2 (AT2) temporary schemes; it was not taken forward, however, due to insufficient AT2 funding. The current proposal is for a permanent scheme which includes:

- a) a build out at the west end of The Broadway near the Norris Museum to create an informal crossing point and to slow traffic heading into the town centre;
- b) a build out on the east end of The Broadway near the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain to create an informal crossing point;
- c) the removal of 14 car parking spaces and the addition of 4 new disabled parking spaces;
- d) the widening of the footway on the north side.

Currently The Broadway is a wide street dominated by car parking, including echelon car parking on the north side which makes crossing difficult for pedestrians; the frequent parking manoeuvres create safety issues for cyclists. The proposals are to end the echelon parking, create more space for pedestrians on the north side (to include new planters, benches and cycle parking) and better crossing points at either end of The Broadway.

This workstream is considered to fit alongside Package 4: To improve consistency and connectivity of walking and cycling signage throughout St Ives to encourage increased levels of walking and cycling.

Contribution: £250k with additional contribution from Huntingdonshire District Council

Programme: Expected start date 4 March 2024, expected completion date 22 July 2024, subject to relevant approvals.

b. St Ives Toucan Crossing

Provision of a new toucan crossing facility across St Audreys Lane between the A1123/stocks bridge way roundabout and the A1123/Somersham Rd (B1040) roundabout. This scheme is being part funded through S106 monies from a local development and requires an additional contribution to bring forward delivery.

Contribution: £150k with additional £170k contribution from S106 funding

Programme: Subject to funding approval, this scheme can be delivered by end March 2024.

c. Active Travel Improvements – Routes 98 and 99

Following the work undertaken as part of the original St Ives Local Improvements programme under package 5, two schemes have been identified with potential to be taken forward to delivery stage utilising the underspend, subject to acceptability on the overall programme.

Routes 98 and 99 are existing routes from St Audrey Lane connecting through to a housing estate and commercial area. The detailed design work demonstrates potential to widen these routes from 1.8m to 3m within the existing highway boundary improving the surface for users, as a part of the works a new parallel crossing will be introduced at Erica Road. Along the route there is scope to improve access to an existing playpark and incorporate some areas of planting.

Detailed design work is currently being completed for both routes. Initial cost estimates indicate that route 98 is deliverable within the available budget and it is recommended that this is taken forward to construction. Route 99 will have detailed design phase completed ready to deliver when future funding is available.

Contribution: £960k

Programme: Construction completion September 2024

1.3 Programme Summary

Scheme	Project Stage	End Date	RAG Status
Package 1 – On street parking changes	Construction	19.03.2024	
Package 3 – Bus Stop Improvements	Construction	31.03.2024	
Package 4 – Walking and Cycling	Construction	06.03.2024	
Package 5 – NMU Route Study	SOBC	07.03.2024	
The Broadway	Construction	22.07.2024	
Toucan Crossing	Construction	15.05.2024	
Active Travel Route 98	Construction	30.09.2024	

Delivery of the proposed additional works in the programme will extend beyond March 2024. Completion of all schemes is expected by Autumn 2024.

1.4 Funding summary

Package	Forecast Spend
Packages 1-5	£939,152.78
The Broadway	£250,000
Toucan Crossing	£150,000
Active Travel Route 98 and 99	£960,000
Total Funding Allocation	£2.3m

2. Transforming Cities Programme

2.1 Overview

In December 2022, Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways and Transport Committee approved delivery of the Cambridgeshire elements of the 2023/24 programme to be funded from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund allocation. Schemes were selected that met the Transforming Cities criteria and, given the tight timescales involved, were assessed by CCC officers either already benefit from existing approvals from this committee or were under development for potential funding from other programmes.

2.2 Programme

A number of schemes within the Transforming Cities programme have been completed or will be completed by the end of March 2024.

Some schemes are expected to extend beyond March 2024 for the reasons outlined below but, subject to approval of the extended programme and associated funding, are expected to be delivered by the end of 2024.

Scheme	Project Stage	End Date	RAG Status
Addenbrookes Roundabout, Cambridge	Preliminary Design	Complete	
Crossing at The Brook, Sutton	Construction	Complete	
A603 Barton Road Junction	Construction	Complete	
Northstowe P&R Bus Link	Construction	Complete	
2 Zebra Crossings, Chatteris	Construction	28 March 2024	
Countywide Speed Reduction – 20mph	Implementation	September 2024	
Countywide School Streets	Implementation	September 2024	
Mill Road, Cambridge – Modal Filter	Construction	September 2024	

- Countywide speed reduction schemes have been approved in a number of towns across Cambridgeshire including Cambourne, Ely and Histon and Impington which will be delivered before the end of the financial year. Approval has also been secured and orders will be in place for schemes in Ramsey and St Neots with completion expected early in the next financial year. Schemes in Huntingdon, St Ives, Soham and Cambridge are at various stages of consultation and detailed design, with approval and delivery to follow next financial year, with completion by September 2024.

- Countywide School Streets – Following engagement with schools a long-list of school streets schemes has been identified and a new member of staff has been appointed by the County Council to focus specifically on delivering the top 5 schemes from this list by September 2024.
- Mill Road Modal Filter – the County Council intends to undertake the proposed works but is awaiting a Court decision following an application made to the Court to suspend the traffic regulation order and associated works.