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A62 Smart Corridor Phase 1 – Early Engagement

Kirklees Council welcomes your views on a plan to improve traffic flows on the existing A62 Leeds Road.

Why are the improvements needed?

As you will know, the A62 Leeds Road is severely congested at peak traffic times. Average travel speeds are both unreliable and slow. If you are a regular user of the A62, you will no doubt be aware of the queuing traffic, delays at junctions and lack of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

What is proposed?

The A62 Leeds Road scheme is in the early development stage, but we are using the results of previous studies we have done at the junctions to create a concept design. We are currently considering a series of traffic improvements at the signalled junctions down Leeds Road. The main benefits of the scheme will be to:

- Reduce traffic and congestion;
- Reduce the potential for accidents;
- Improve air quality;
- Improve conditions for local residents and businesses;
- Improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians;
- Improve bus reliability and services;
- Enable access to land for new housing and economic development.

Given that we knew we wanted to make improvements along the route over the next few years, the Council encouraged Northern Gas to do their network replacement works well before our roadworks would be implemented. However, not wanting to waste money we have talked to them about incorporating some minor improvements into their re-instatement works at the Old Fieldhouse Lane junction, so that they are not replacing the signals, only for the Council to have to dig them up later.

Who is promoting the scheme?

Early last year, Kirklees Council submitted an Expression of Interest for the A62 Leeds Road corridor, as this is one of our most heavily congested routes. The expression of interest was accepted and is now being looked at alongside a submission to the European Regional Development Fund for additional funding to incorporate Green Infrastructure into any improvements that are ultimately proposed.

This multi-million pound scheme is being promoted by Kirklees Council, as Local Highway Authority, but is supported and funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The Council has currently secured funding to investigate how we can improve things, but the detailed design will only be undertaken when we have considered feedback from users, businesses, and residents on Leeds Road. We are hopeful we can then develop a detailed scheme, secure the full funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and start on site as early as 2019.

The funding will not come out of the Council's budget; therefore, this scheme will not have an impact on other Council services.

Your chance to Have Your Say!

We are now seeking opinions and thoughts from you as a local business owner, resident, or regular users of the A62 to help inform the development of a design.

Given the issues we know about in this area, the following measures may provide a solution:

- Improved junctions – widening / narrowing, easing kerb lines to allow better access;
- Improved signals – new technology;
- Relocation of existing bus stops, pedestrian crossings;
- Introduction of segregated cycle lanes (or shared cycle / footways, or on-road cycle provision; and
- Enhanced landscaping

More information on our proposals can be found at:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorschemes

Given the funding and timescale constraints, we will not be able to provide a new bypass or major lengths of additional carriageway. All works are expected at this stage to be within the existing highway boundary, but we may be able to move kerb lines slightly and make more efficient use of the existing highway space. There are NO proposals for the demolition of property.

We want to know where you feel the highway can be improved or where particular issues give you concern so that we can investigate and see if we can take measures to alleviate your concerns.

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We are aware that we cannot always reach every member of the community, therefore, if you think others may be interested, please pass this information to local neighbours, friends or community groups and ask them to contact us as well.

As part of the public engagement process, I should be grateful for your comments on the proposals by email or in writing to:

Email: major.transport@kirklees.gov.uk

Write: FREEPOST Kirklees Council, Major Transport Scheme

Please return your comments or observations by **Friday 23 March 2018**

Yours faithfully

Tracey Brewer
Project Manager
Kirklees Council
Investment and Regeneration


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We need to know what people who live and work in the area think the issues are before we embark on the detailed design of the A62 Leeds Road Corridor scheme.

Email: major.transport@kirklees.gov.uk

Write: FREEPOST Kirklees Council, Major Transport Scheme

- | | |
|-----|--|
| Yes | |
| No | |



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| I am a local resident of the area | |
| I own a business along the A62 | |
| I am a regular user of the A62 | |
| I am an occasional visitor | |
| Other please specify | |

Name	
Address	
Post Code	

Have Your Say

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3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed aims of the scheme?

Proposal	Agree	Disagree
To improve journey time		
Improve pedestrian access and facilities		
Improve provision for cycling		
Public Transport provision and facilities		
Enhanced Landscaping		

If the answer to any of the above is disagree, please state why:

Please return your comments by FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018 to:

Email: major.transport@kirklees.gov.uk or

Write: FREEPOST Kirklees Council, Major Transport Scheme

A62 Smart Corridor Phase 1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the A62 Smart Corridor Phase 1 scheme?

The scheme is a package of measures, which seeks to address the causes of vehicle-based congestion along the A62 Leeds Road, thus reducing and making journey times more reliable. At the same time, the scheme will also look to improve facilities for residents, businesses, and users whilst also improving the Leeds Road environment.

2. Where is the scheme? Is it the full length of Leeds Road?

The scheme starts at the junction of Huddersfield Ring Road / Southgate / Northumberland Street and ends at the junction of A62 / Old Fieldhouse Lane; a corridor length of approximately 2.0km. Along this corridor are several key junctions, namely:

- Huddersfield Ring Road / Southgate / Northumberland Street;
- Leeds Road / Lower Fitzwilliam Street / Gasworks Street;
- Leeds Road / Thistle Street / Hillhouse Lane;
- Leeds Road / St Andrews Road;
- Leeds Road / Bradley Mills Road / Barr Street;
- Leeds Road / Bradley Mills Road / Red Doles Lane;
- Leeds Road / Old Fieldhouse Lane

3. Why do we need to do something?

The Council has a statutory duty under the Traffic Management Act to consider options that improve traffic flow. The A62 Leeds Road is one of the key routes into Huddersfield; it is a corridor with one of the largest movements of people in the Kirklees area by all modes and the least spare capacity to accommodate that movement. The existing road network is unable to cope at peak times, which is leading to significant delays and congestion. Compound the current issues with the projected natural growth and future development needs and it becomes evident that interventions are necessary to help existing traffic and allow for future growth.

4. What will it involve?

At this stage, there has been no decision made on any details of the scheme, although given the constraints in the area and the land available, there is limited scope for major alterations e.g. a bypass or major road widening. Given the known challenges in the area and the impact that congestion is having on journey times etc. it is likely that the scheme will involve the following:

- Improvements to the signalled junctions;
- Improvements to kerb lines at junctions to ease movement;
- Improvements to pedestrian crossings;
- Improvements to cycle provision (either on or off highway);
- Improvements to bus provision
- Resurfacing, new lining and signing
- Inclusion of landscaping (Green Infrastructure) along the route

5. What will this achieve?

The principal aims of the scheme will be to:

- Reduce traffic and congestion;
- Reduce the potential for accidents and improve severance;
- Improve air quality;
- Improve conditions for local residents and businesses;
- Improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians;
- Improve bus reliability and services; and
- Enable access to land for housing and employment developments

6. Who is paying for the scheme? Where is the money coming from?

The project is to be funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). Kirklees Council has to submit a business case to the WYCA for their approval for the scheme to proceed. If successful, we will receive the funding allocated to the scheme through the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund.

We WILL NOT be using Council tax or other Council revenue streams, therefore, funding this scheme will not impact on other Council services.

7. What is the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA)?

The Combined Authority was formed in April 2014 to be the driving force for economic growth across the West Yorkshire and the City of York Council area. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority brings together key decision-making powers into a single body. To find out more visit: www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk.

8. Can the money be spent on any other projects?

The A62 Leeds Road scheme has funding provisionally allocated earmarked from the West Yorkshire plus Transport Fund and therefore the funding will not be able to be spent on any other proposals or scheme. If WYCA do not accept the scheme's business case, then the scheme cannot go ahead and the money earmarked for this project will be allocated elsewhere in the region; not necessarily in Kirklees.

9. When will you have the detailed design?

Following the consultation, feedback received will be considered and options for improvement will be appraised in accordance with guidelines approved by the Department for Transport (DfT). The current intention is to hold a public exhibition in late summer/early autumn 2018 to publicise a proposed scheme. The public exhibition is to seek further input into the preferred scheme and to illustrate the quantified benefits it will deliver, and give residents another opportunity to comment on the design before it is finalised.

10. When will you start work on the improvements?

If we get approval, it is anticipated that work could commence on site as early as March 2019 with all works being completed by 2020.

11. Will my comments be considered?

The Council has secured initial funding to develop the business case and undertake transport modelling. Your comments will help inform a scheme which aims to address not only the underlying highway issues but also the needs of local residents, business owners, and commuters. By having your say and sharing your views we will be able to ensure that the priorities and thoughts you have on your area are reflected in any scheme design.

12. Who can take part? Can I tell other people to take part?

We welcome the opinions and feedback of anyone. Whether you travel by public transport, walk, drive or cycle, are a business owner or just travel through the area, your views and insight is valuable to us to shape our scheme. Please share the link www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorschemes with anyone you think would be interested in taking part. If you intend to submit a joint response on behalf of a group/organisation, please share the link with your colleagues so they can have the opportunity to provide an individual response.

13. When can I take part?

The consultation is running until **FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018**

14. How can I take part?

You can take part by visiting our website: www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorscheme, and selecting the A62 Smart Corridor Phase 1 scheme to review all the latest information. In addition, post a copy of the questionnaire to: Freepost Kirklees Council, Major Transport Scheme or email: major.transport@kirklees.gov.uk.

15. When will we find out the results? What will you do with the results? Will you keep me updated on progress?

After the consultation period closes on **23rd March 2018**, responses will collated and analysed. A consultation summary report will be prepared and posted on our website www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorscheme. We will consider the feedback and a 'You Said We Did' report will be prepared and posted on-line to provide an opportunity to see which elements will be taken forward and incorporated into the scheme design or not. In the event we cannot incorporate your design, we will provide a response as to why.

At this stage it is intended that area wide information will be posted to residents and business to keep them informed on progress and also maintain our webpage www.kirklees.gov.uk/majorscheme with all the latest information regarding the scheme and you are invited to check back and see the progress there as it happens.