

1. What are the proposed improvements and who will be responsible for delivering them?

Our aim is to complete the Yate Spur Path, providing a safe cycle connection from Yate to the Bristol and Bath railway path, and its links to the wider cycle network to give residents and visitors better options for walking and cycling. The proposals include completing the sections of route between Westerleigh village and Yate that do not currently have off road provision for cyclists. The scheme will enhance safety for cyclists, encourage walking and will include a section of segregated equestrian path.

The proposals are being developed by South Gloucestershire Council as part of a [wider programme of bus and cycle investment across the West of England by the Combined Authority](#).

For further information regarding the scope of proposals, please refer to the story boards and Statement of Reasons.

2. How has this project been identified?

This scheme is part of a wider transport package of improvements set out in the [Joint Local Transport Plan 4 \(2020-2036\)](#) for the West of England which after consultation in 2019 was adopted as policy by the West of England local authorities. This document sets out the priorities for investment in the area including the Yate Spur and A432 corridor improvements for walking and cycling between Yate and the A4174 Ring road and further improvements to public and active travel options within the Yate area.

3. How do the proposals fit in with other schemes in the area?

These proposals are separate to those being developed in relation to [Yate, Chipping Sodbury, A432 and A4174 improvements](#) and the [Yate Town Improvement Masterplan](#) but will complement them by improving walking and cycling connections within the town.

4. How does the scheme fit in with the council's declared climate emergency and carbon targets?

In July 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency. The council has taken urgent steps to address this situation and prepare for the local impact of climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Transport is a key generator of carbon emissions and represents the largest source of in district emissions.

An important part of our transport response is to provide a step-change in providing for walking, cycling and public transport. To do this we will be looking to reallocate road space from cars to people in particular to make alternatives to the car more reliable, safe and convenient. This scheme supports that sustainable transport investment. The production of the business case will include an appropriate assessment of carbon and air quality impacts.

5. How will the scheme benefit me?

A new walking and cycling route segregated from motor vehicles will make it safer and more attractive to walk or cycle between Westerleigh and Yate. These facilities will be designed to be suitable for use by people of all abilities.

New or improved crossing facilities will be provided to improve access to bus stops and the new walking and cycling tracks.

6. How much will these changes cost?

Cost estimates will be developed as part of the design process during 2022 but we anticipate that they will be significant given the scale of changes proposed throughout the route.

7. Where is the money coming from to pay for these improvements?

Funding for the improvements will be provided by the West of England Combined Authority's funding from Central Government and will not impact on funds available in South Gloucestershire for other council services. Funding is subject to business case approval by the Combined Authority. An Outline Business Case is due to be submitted in summer 2022. A Full Business Case will be submitted once detailed design and planning consent has been completed/granted.

8. When will construction take place and how long will it last?

It is expected to take around a year to complete the necessary design work, obtain funding approvals and gain the necessary planning consent and land agreements. Construction is planned to start from spring 2023 onwards.

9. Is this the only time I can have my say? Are there other opportunities for me to have my say?

Following approval of the Outline Business Case, further opportunity will be provided to comment as part of a planning application for the scheme.

10. How will facilities for walking and cycling be improved?

A new shared use walking and cycling route is proposed between Yate and Westerleigh, segregated from motor vehicle traffic. They will make it safer and more attractive to walk or cycle between those communities and complete the Yate Spur Path to the Bristol and Bath railway path. These facilities will be designed to be suitable for use by people of all abilities.

The new walking and cycling facilities will be designed in accordance with the Department for Transport's [Cycle Infrastructure Design guidance \(Local Transport Note 1/20\)](#).

11. Are equestrians considered in the scheme?

A segregated equestrian path is proposed as part of the off-road path provision, connecting up the existing Restricted Byway from Westerleigh. The route will have some sections of shared use where space is constrained such as underneath the rail bridge.

12. How will the proposals affect air quality?

The scheme will contribute to improved air quality in the corridor by increasing the proportion of journeys made by walking and cycling.

13. What are the next steps for the scheme?

We will review the responses received through the public engagement. They will be taken into account as we progress with the design work for the scheme and submission of an Outline Business Case to the West of England Combined Authority in summer 2022.

Following approval of the OBC, a consultation will be undertaken which will provide opportunity to comment on detailed proposals.

14. How do I make comments or find out more about the scheme?

Please complete the survey form provided on the engagement website or if you have a question or would like to register to stay in touch please email Transportservices@southglos.gov.uk