

CLr Julian Joy WSCC Report – Chichester City Council meeting –

28th June 2023 - 7pm

it seems that a review of the ChEm route has been conducted, and an application for funding has been submitted to Highways England (HE) within the last two weeks. The estimated cost for the feasibility review is around £400,000, and the decision to proceed with it is pending. The revised route request is motivated by the change in the 20mph policy of West Sussex County Council (wscc), which necessitates a more flexible design approach to achieve the desired LTN120 design aspirations, including separate routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

However, there are concerns regarding whether HE would consider the investment worthwhile if local stakeholders, such as cycle forums, do not support the redesign. It would be advantageous if the local parish and district council could, with intent, contribute financially to the construction costs through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions. Additionally, the recent political changes resulting from the local elections could also impact the project's feasibility agreement potentially on a positive position depending on the new administration's policies.

Typically, construction budgets applications for cycle routes in the district and county range from £2-3 million, while the ChEm route is currently estimated at £8 million +. While it is not uncommon to apply and secure 100% funding through applications, having local stakeholders provide financial support often strengthens the project's position in the decision-making process.

To move forward, it is important to obtain commitment from Chichester District Council (CDC) to include proposals for the ChEm route in their Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) and confirm that it remains an active proposal.

In addition, there is a separate proposal for the access from the Fishbourne underpass to Chichester's West Street, which involves the White House Farm (WHF) development and the Southern Access Proposed Route (SAR). To address the complex redesign challenges associated with this proposal, meetings have been arranged with various agencies involved in different aspects of the route. Taking a holistic approach to design and decision-making is the aim. Similar to the ChEm route, securing match funding would be beneficial for this project.

Regarding the 20mph Community highways application, I am awaiting further discussions with Councillor Corfield on this city wide initiative.

I am hoping that the centurion way over bridge path is underway soon.