

Report to Scrutiny Commission

Economic Development, Transport & Tourism
Scrutiny Commission

Date of Commission meeting: 27 June 2019

Connecting Leicester

Report of the Director of
Planning, Development and Transportation



Leicester
City Council

Useful Information:

- Ward(s) affected: All
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1. Summary

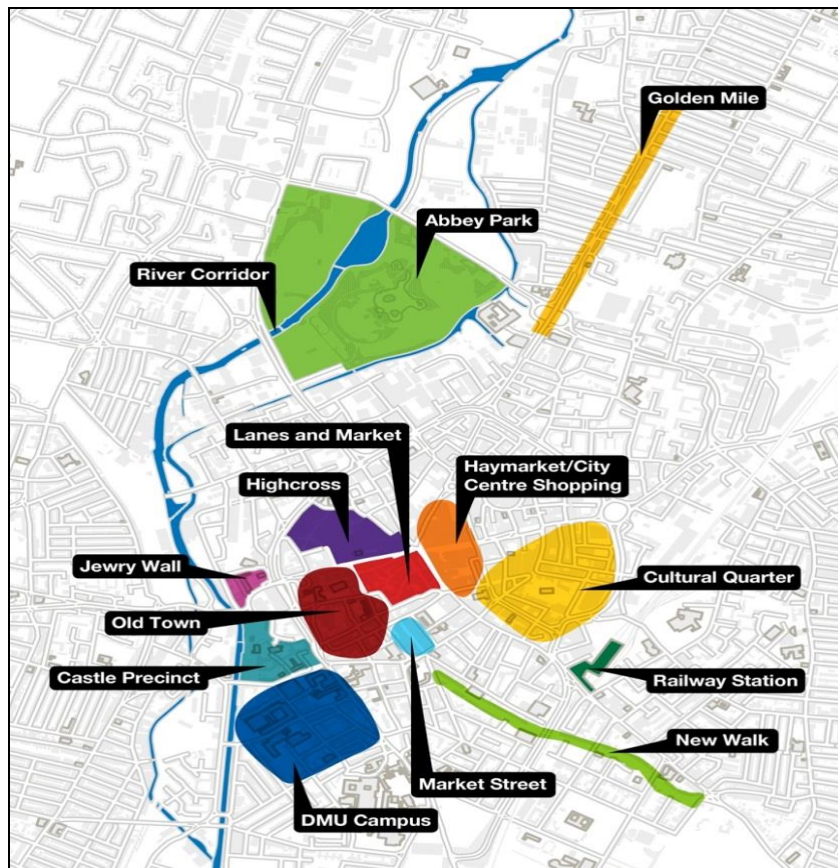
1.1 To provide an update on the Connecting Leicester Programme.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny

2.1 The Commission is asked to note the report.

3. Supporting Information

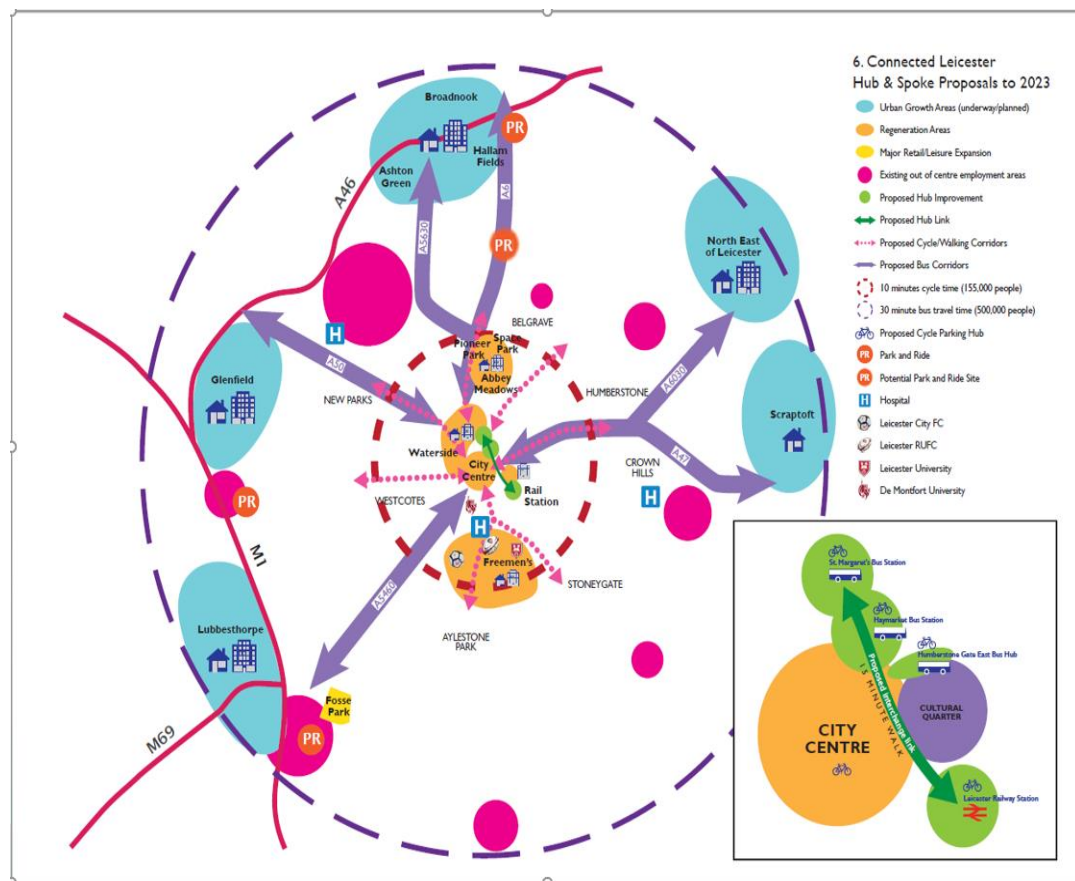
3.1 The Connecting Leicester Programme has since 2012 delivered schemes to provide safe and attractive links between areas of interest in the city centre and neighbouring communities. The project has helped support the vitality of the city centre as the primary retail, business and leisure destination for all city residents.



- 3.2 These schemes have also improved the environment of the city centre by delivering public realm schemes to both improve individual streets and to create new open spaces, such as Jubilee Square, Cathedral Gardens and Market Square. This has provided new spaces for a range of city events and activities.
- 3.3 This work has been cited by business as supporting the return of businesses from out of town locations, significant inward investment by new businesses and a significant reduction in empty retail units.
- 3.4 These schemes have created a network of safe and continuous pedestrian and cycle routes through the city centre to link up to routes across the central ring road and along the radial routes to nearby residential areas.
- 3.5 As a further phase of the programme the Connecting Leicester works have been extended to the radial corridor routes such as Welford Road and London Road to provide safe, high quality pedestrian and cycle connections for people living within a reasonable distance from the city centre. Provision has been for cyclists including by reallocating road space i.e. the removal of a traffic lane to enable segregated cycle lanes to be provided.
- 3.6 Two of the objectives are to ensure that continuous routes are progressively provided along radial corridors linking to the city centre and that known gaps in the network are filled, and there wherever possible space is segregated between pedestrians and cyclists. Segregation can only be provided where space permits, in some locations there has to be shared use, and these areas are carefully designed to minimise conflict

Transforming Cities Fund

- 3.7 Last year the city was successful in bidding to receive a share of £1.2bn from the Department for Transport for schemes to assist in delivering housing and employment growth in and around the city. The bid focussed on the creation of additional high quality cycling and walking routes to connect the city centre with neighbourhoods within walking and cycling distance of the city centre. The bid also proposed the creation of high quality bus corridors from neighbourhoods further from the city centre with extensive bus priorities to provide quick and reliable bus journeys into the city centre. Improved transport hubs and links within the city centre were also proposed.
- 3.8 The diagram below demonstrates the TCF concept.



3.9 As part of the Tranche 1 settlement, the city received £7.8m to deliver the following schemes:

- York Road: on site May to October 2019
- Lancaster Road: on site July to Dec 2019
- Belgrave Gate North: on site July 2019
- Central Ring Road cycle infrastructure: on site Jan 2020.
- Abbey Park Road: on site October 2019
- Magazine Crossing: on site July 2019
- Bike Share Infrastructure install 50+ docking stations to provide 500+ bikes: the scheme aims to launch in Spring 2020

3.10 A number of other street improvement schemes are due to start on site over the next year:

- High Street/Clock Tower resurfacing: July 2019
- Mansfield Street: August 2019
- Market Place South: Sept 2019
- Horsefair Street: Oct 2019
- Pocklington's Walk: Oct 2019
- Church Gate pedestrianisation: March 2020
- Cank Street link: April 2020

3.11 These schemes are shown on the attached plan 1.

Transforming Cities Fund: Further Bid

3.12 A further bid is being developed for the remainder of the fund with final submission in November this year. This bid will focus on connecting transport hubs and links in the city centre, further electrification of park and ride services, cycle and bus infrastructure on main radial corridors serving city growth. This Programme will be reported to the Commission in due course.

4. Financial, legal and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

Funding for these schemes come from a number of sources including Department for Transport, European Regional Development Fund, Local Growth Fund and the City Council's Economic Action Plan.

4.2 Legal implications

None arising from the report other than the need for Traffic Regulation Orders which will be proposed as necessary for each scheme.

4.3. Climate Change implications

None arising from the report.

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments are prepared for each scheme.

5. Background information and other papers:

None

6. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Transforming Cities Fund - plan of projects

7. Is this a private report ?

(If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)

No