Item 5

30th August 2022

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
Hillhead Area Partnership

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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PROJECT UPDATE: BYRES ROAD PUBLIC REALM

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Area Partnership with an update on public realm improvement works to be delivered on Byres Road as part of the Glasgow City Region Deal.

Recommendations:

The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

The City Deal: Clyde Waterfront and West End Innovation Quarter (CWWEIQ) project aims to regenerate the river corridor as a vibrant urban quarter that attracts jobs and investment contributing to regional economic growth. A key component of the City Deal business case is the implementation of a comprehensive public realm scheme on Byres Road to improve place quality and physical connections with the University.

These works aim to complement the significant capital investment being delivered by the University of Glasgow through its campus re-development and to support the vision set out within the Byres Road Placemaking Report which was approved by the Council's Regeneration and Economy Committee in January 2017:

"Rejuvenate the quality of Byres Road streetscape and public realm to create a people-focused place that enhances the pedestrian experience, promotes social interaction and dwell time, enhances the economic vibrancy of shops and services and improves its cycle-friendliness and environmental performance."

2.0 Design

Designs were informed by a series of engagement sessions and workshops throughout 2017. The public were subsequently asked to provide feedback on a Concept Design as part of a formal consultation that lasted for a 5-week period from 23 May – 27 June 2018. The consultation noted significant support for proposed measures to improve the quality of footways and the wider pedestrian environment however there was substantial opposition to the quality of the proposed cycle infrastructure. Concerns related primarily to the lack of physical segregation between cyclists and motor vehicles. In October 2018 the Council's Housing, Neighbourhoods and Public Realm Committee instructed that design proposals be amended to ***"prioritise segregated cycle infrastructure along the full length of Byres Road, whilst maintaining wide footways to encourage and facilitate other active travel modes."***

In April 2019 the Council's Neighbourhoods Housing and Public Realm Committee approved a concept design for public realm works. The main features of the design included:

- Introduction of a one-way gyratory system at the southern end of the street to discourage traffic that is using Byres Road as a means of accessing the Clydeside Expressway.

- Reducing the speed of traffic through the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

- Reducing the width of the carriageway and removing a number of on-street car parking bays to create additional pedestrian and cycling space.

- Widening and upgrading of footways to make pedestrian movement along the street more relaxed and enjoyable and to reduce the width of crossing points.

- Introduction of step free crossings at side streets.

- Enhancing key corners to create distinct and attractive spaces along the street where people can sit and rest.

- Introduction of protected cycle infrastructure including a contraflow cycle lane to allow cyclists a continuous route between Great Western Road and Partick Cross.

Committee instructed Officers to progress delivery of the project including consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders required to undertake the works.

(https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDN0G2U81ZLDX)

3.0 Traffic Regulation Orders

In January 2020 the Council commenced a statutory consultation period on three separate Traffic Regulation Orders relevant to the proposed works:

1. Byres Road- Introduction of 20mph Speed Limit
2. Byres Road- Traffic Management and Parking Controls
3. Hillhead- Traffic Management and Parking Controls

The Traffic Orders relating specifically to Byres Road were made on 4 February 2022 and 28 June 2022 respectively. The Traffic Order relating to Hillhead generated a significant number of responses from the public. Aspects of the order that generated the most representations included:

- Introduction of Shared Use parking bays.
- Introduction of Additional Resident Parking Permits.
- Proposed Hours of Parking Restrictions.
- Introduction of no entry into Great George Street from Hillhead Street.
- Inclusion of Hillhead within W3 Parking Zone.
- Pedestrianisation of Ashton Lane.

Transport Scotland has granted the Council an extension to 3 January 2023 to respond to representations and make the Order.

4.0 Delivery Programme

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the programme for the proposed works and on the capacity of the market to deliver construction contracts. The situation has been further compounded by Brexit, the energy crisis and more recently the conflict in Ukraine. At the end of 2021 the Council had to postpone a large public realm project due to uncompetitive tender prices being returned. Subsequent research identified that larger contractors with the financial capacity to deliver high value contracts were effectively applying a premium to works costs and sub-contracting works to smaller contractors. As a result of this a decision was taken to deliver Byres Road public realm works as two separate works packages with lower contract values. This approach aims to ensure that best value is achieved.

Phase 1 works will focus Byres Road South (Partick Cross to University Avenue) and Phase 2 will address Byres Road North (University Avenue to Great Western Road). Prioritisation of works was impacted by factors including:

- **Surface Water Flooding-** Scottish Water are currently investigating potential solutions to surface water flooding that has impacted the northern section of the street recently. Deferring works in the northern section of the street will allow minor design amendments that may be required to complement Scottish Water proposals.

- **UCI World Cycle Championships-** Glasgow will host the UCI World Cycle Championships in August 2023. The northern section of the street forms part of the Road Race route.

- **Detailed Design-** Deferring works in the northern section of the street allows additional time for detailed design at particularly complex areas such as the junction of Byres Road and Great Western Road.

The Council issued a Tender for Phase 1 in July 2022. Contract award is scheduled for November 2022 allowing a site start in January 2023. Phase 2 Works will commence in autumn 2024 upon the completion of Phase 1.

5.0 Recommendations

The Area Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report.