

King's Lynn Sustainable Transport And Regeneration Scheme (STARS)

The King's Lynn Sustainable Transport and Regeneration Scheme (STARS) comprises changes to two key areas of the town. The first is around the town centre Gyratory (one-way system) and will implement bus priority and active travel measures in line with the adopted King's Lynn Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The second is bus priority and active travel highway changes in the Southgates area to enable a masterplan for regeneration of this important entry point into the town devised and formally adopted by Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Scheme development and the outline Business Case (OBC) preparation is under way. The details of the road alignment in the Southgates area are still being finalised with regard to satisfying conservation and heritage interests.

Because, the new government body Active Travel England (ATE) is the modal sponsor for the Department for Transport (DfT), who are assessing our business case and providing the funding, we are in a dialogue with ATE to get their approval for our proposals. This is a new stage in the process for major schemes like this and reflects governments commitment to wanting to see 50% of all short local journeys being made by walking and cycling. To date we have carried out independent checks of our proposals against the new government guidance for walking and cycling schemes and submitted our proposals to ATE. They have made some high level comments and we are meeting ATE for a site visit on 5 June.

Traffic modelling is being finalised and this will feed into the economic appraisal and enable us to fully understand the Value for Money (VfM) of the scheme and the impacts on general traffic. When this information is available it will be presented to decision makers, members and relevant stakeholders as part of the engagement process.

The OBC is being prepared and it is envisaged that the submission to DfT can be made in July/August at the earliest, rather than February 2024. This is in part due to delays in commissioning the topographical, drainage and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys, but more significantly due to the extra time it is taking to finalise the Southgates proposals to ensure they can be supported by conservation and heritage interests.