

Cranbrook Placemaking Group - Briefing Note 4th August 2025

London Road footway/cycleway improvements

In line with policy CB24 of the adopted Cranbrook Plan, the London Road footway/cycleway improvements scheme aims to enable people to walk, wheel and cycle safely and easily along and across London Road. With significant development planned as part of Cranbrook expansion areas either side of London Road, the road will increasingly become a route “in” Cranbrook, rather than a route bypassing the town to the south. This means there is a need to ensure that infrastructure encourages and enables people to travel actively, whilst ensuring the road can continue to function as an important vehicular and bus route.

Devon County Council's (DCC's) Engineering Design Group have produced a concept design for the scheme, covering the section of London Road between the Station Road and Hand and Pen junctions. This combines developers' proposals for sections of London Road in the vicinity of their sites with DCC proposals for other sections of London Road (where there is no development proposed or development does not have frontages onto London Road), to ensure a consistent level of provision and continuous footways/cycleways. Measures proposed include new shared-use paths (usable by people walking, wheeling and cycling), traffic calming measures (to reduce traffic speeds), street lighting and new/improved crossing facilities.

DCC intends to take a phased approach to delivering the scheme which will improve sections of London Road not covered by developers' proposals, aligning the construction of transport infrastructure with the delivery of nearby housing. Phase 1, for which £750,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding has been secured from East Devon District Council (EDDC), would stretch from the Court Royal Roundabout (near the Cranberry Farm pub) to Land at Ingrams (near Cranbrook United Youth Football Club). This would ensure that residents of the Cobdens expansion area (where planning permission has been granted for over 1,400 homes) are able to safely walk or cycle to Cranbrook town centre and other key destinations.

The next steps for the delivery of Phase 1 will include development of the preliminary scheme design, commencement of land negotiations and liaison with utility companies. It is expected that construction of Phase 1 could begin by 2027.

DCC officers are also continuing to liaise with EDDC to ensure that emerging development proposals across the wider scheme area are aligned with DCC's concept design. Subsequent phases of the scheme will be progressed as additional funding is secured – DCC expects to receive additional S106 funding as the expansion areas come forward and are always looking for external grant funding to help deliver schemes.