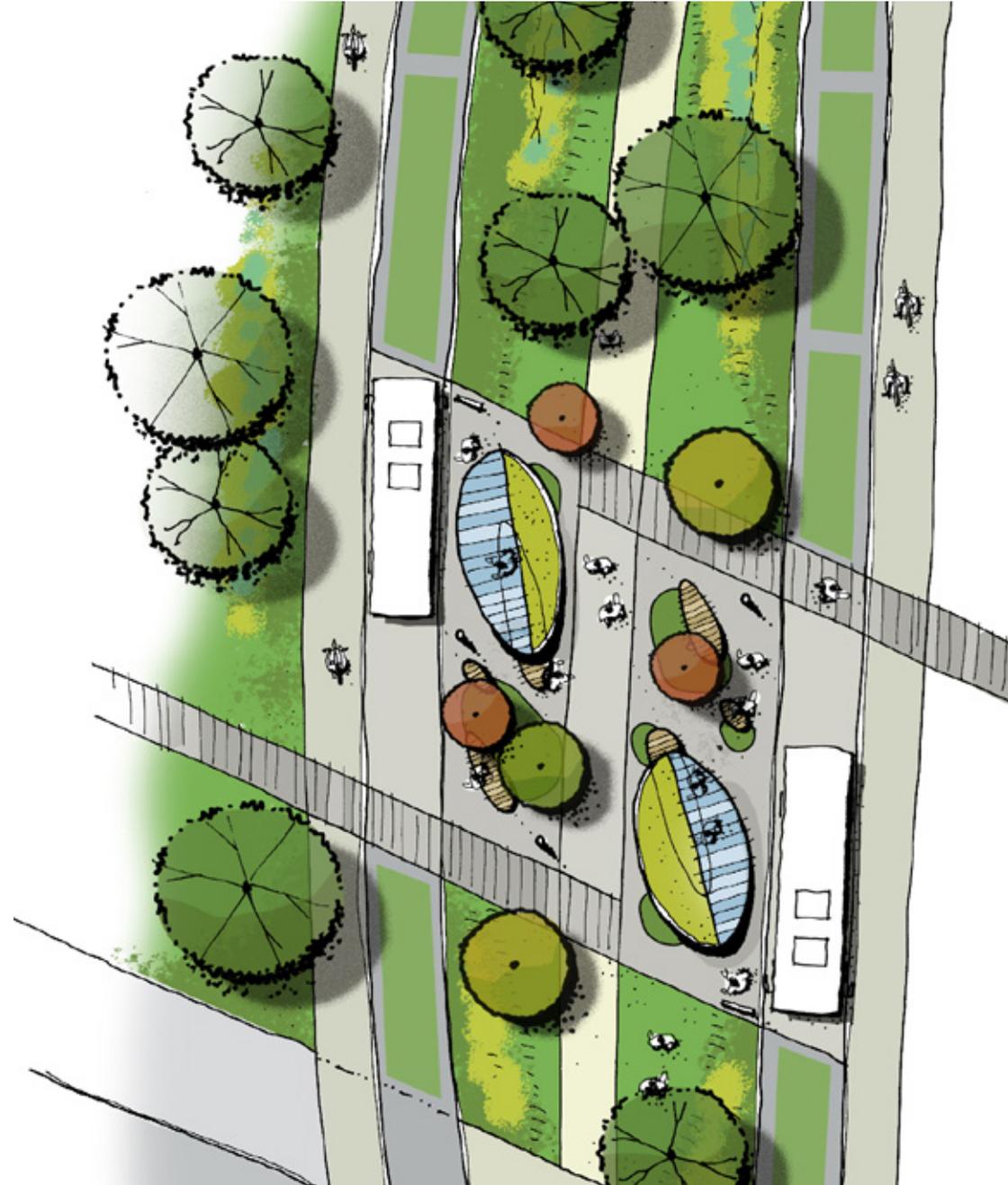


Birkenhead Green Corridor Public Consultation

August 2020



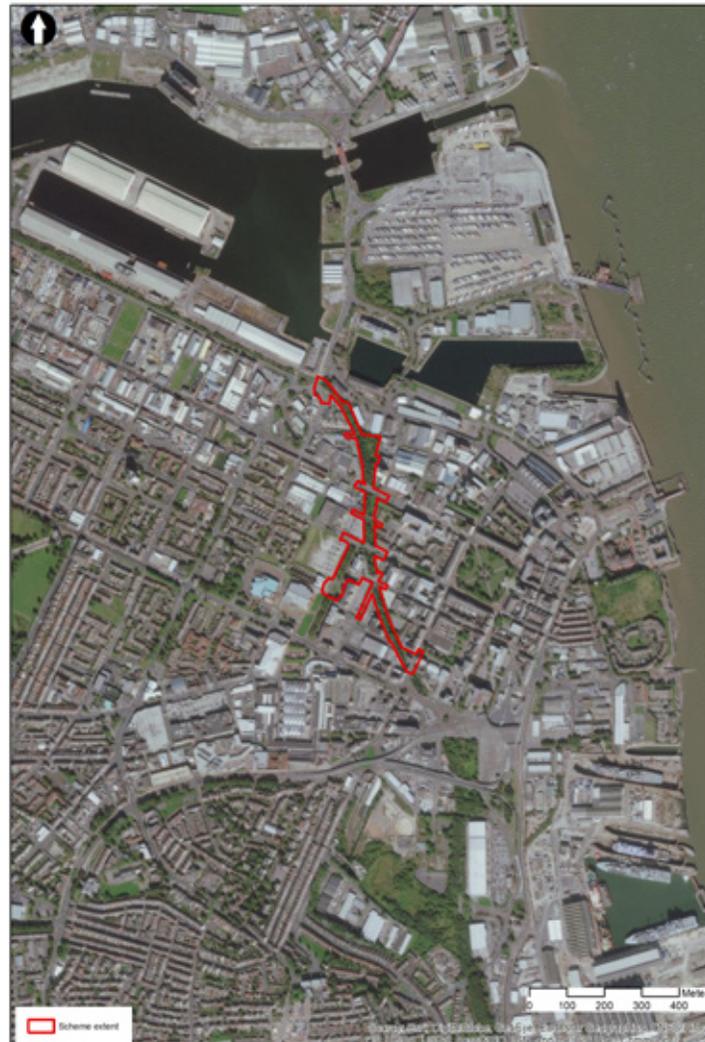
Introduction to the consultation

Welcome

Wirral Council is holding this consultation to present its proposals to bring back into use a disused railway line that formerly served Birkenhead Docks. We are now seeking your feedback on the proposals. The consultation will run until **Sunday 23rd August 2020**.

Birkenhead Green Corridor

The Birkenhead Green Corridor scheme proposes to reclaim a section of old, disused railway line that runs from Birkenhead Docks, approximately 1km south into Birkenhead town centre. The scheme will create a 'green corridor,' made-up of a distinctive linear park, high-quality walking and cycling paths, as well as several public transport routes. These transport links will connect the proposed Wirral Water site to Birkenhead town centre and other future developments around the Birkenhead Central rail station.



Birkenhead Central Gateway

The Birkenhead Green Corridor scheme is part of a wider package of works proposed across Birkenhead, referred to as the A41 North Phase 1 project. The package of schemes forming this project will act as a key catalyst for regeneration, supporting development and improving transport and access "connectivity" throughout Birkenhead.

The Birkenhead Central Gateway scheme also sits within this package of works. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the current divide between Birkenhead town centre and communities to the south, which is created by the existing road layout. The scheme will deliver access improvements to Birkenhead Central rail station and will support the delivery of key development sites located near to the station.

Background to the proposals

The scheme will be located on a section of disused railway track, below road level between Birkenhead town centre and the proposed Wirral Waters site. The former railway line is currently derelict, overgrown and is used for fly-tipping and presents a perfect opportunity for transformational change in Birkenhead. The Birkenhead Green Corridor will aim to reclaim this land by creating an elongated natural space at surface level, for walking, cycling and public transport. The link will provide high-quality connections between the proposed Wirral Waters site to the north of Birkenhead and Birkenhead town centre.

Development on the Wirral

There are several developments planned for the area that will require sustainable transport, ensuring the people of Birkenhead have high-quality access to the jobs and opportunities that are created. Plans for development at Hamilton Square, along Europa Boulevard and the proposed Wirral Waters development at Birkenhead Docks could all benefit from improved north/south access. The plans propose to create more than 20,000 permanent jobs for the Liverpool City Region, as well as offering new housing, education and leisure opportunities.

Encourage Economic Growth across Birkenhead, the A41 Corridor and Wirral Waters

The Birkenhead Green Corridor scheme will encourage development to take place along the corridor, unlocking land that was previously constrained by poor quality transport connections. This will support job creation in Birkenhead Town centre and beyond.

Reduce severance and barriers to movement for all, improving local access and connectivity

Communities in Birkenhead will benefit from better connections to opportunities across the wider area, with attractive walking and cycling routes removing some of the barriers to movement. The brand-new route will also improve public transport journey times, making trips more reliable.

Deliver a safe, well connected and sustainable transport network for the benefit of local communities

Access to future job opportunities will be improved for local people through a well-connected local transport network. Quality of life also will be enhanced for local communities through the provision of green space and uptake in active travel.

Sustainable Travel

The current uptake of sustainable transport in Birkenhead is low in comparison with other parts of the country. This includes public transport as well as walking and cycling. This is partly due to constraints to active travel (cycling and walking) and bus routes, with challenging road layouts causing longer journey times and undesirable routes. The proposals will seek to create an improved environment for residents to travel sustainably within the local area.

Scheme Objectives

The scheme objectives were created to ensure that the Birkenhead Green Corridor achieves the wider ambitions for sustainable development across the Wirral.

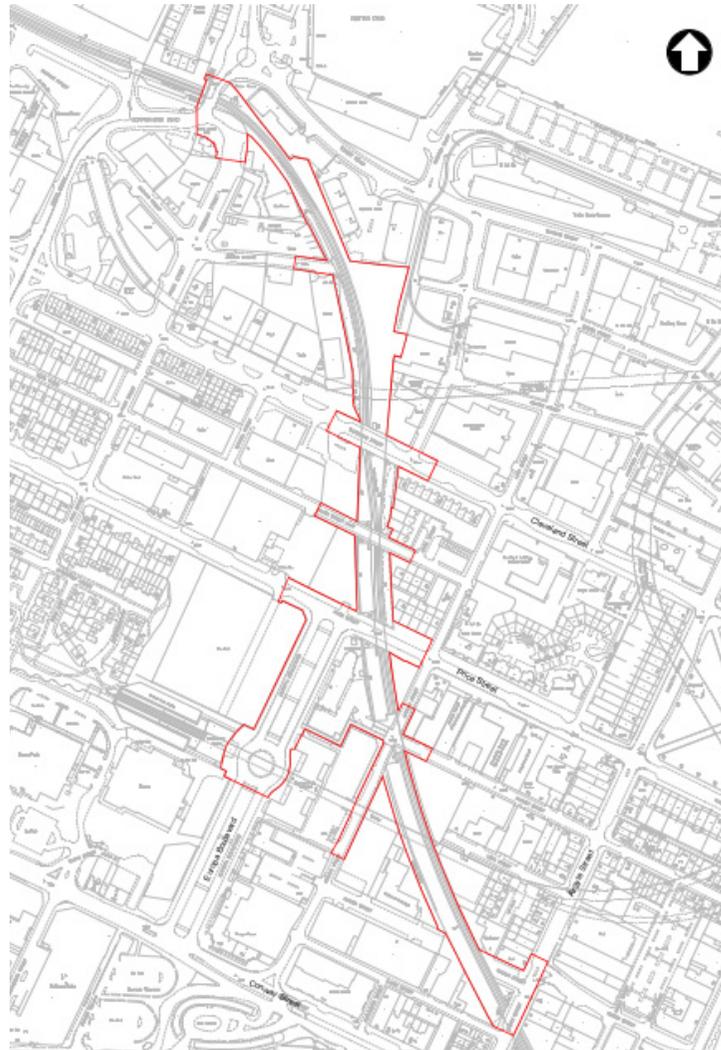
The site

Current situation

The green corridor will be developed on a section of disused railway track between Birkenhead town centre and the proposed Wirral Waters site. The corridor runs through the heart of Birkenhead town centre and is near to historic areas including the Mersey Docklands and Hamilton Square.

The line is currently below ground level, is largely overgrown and is sometimes used for fly-tipping.

The corridor will be developed to improve the existing transport networks in Birkenhead and the Wirral and will capitalise on the opportunity to enhance sustainable transport networks within the surrounding area.



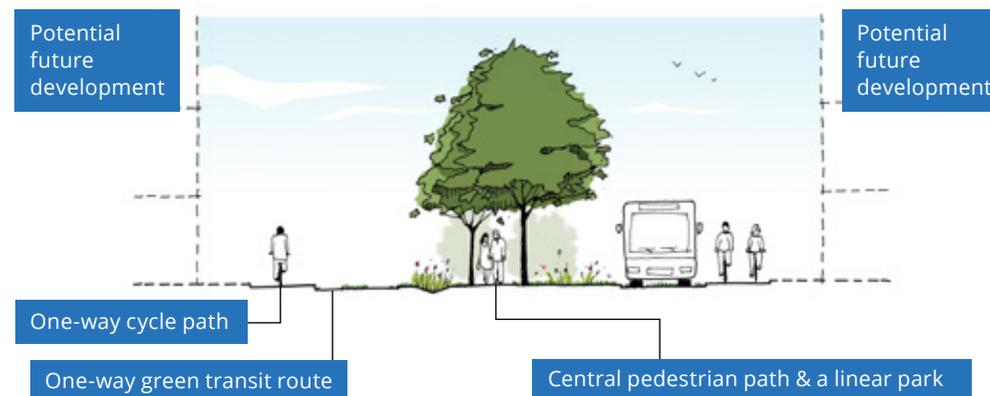
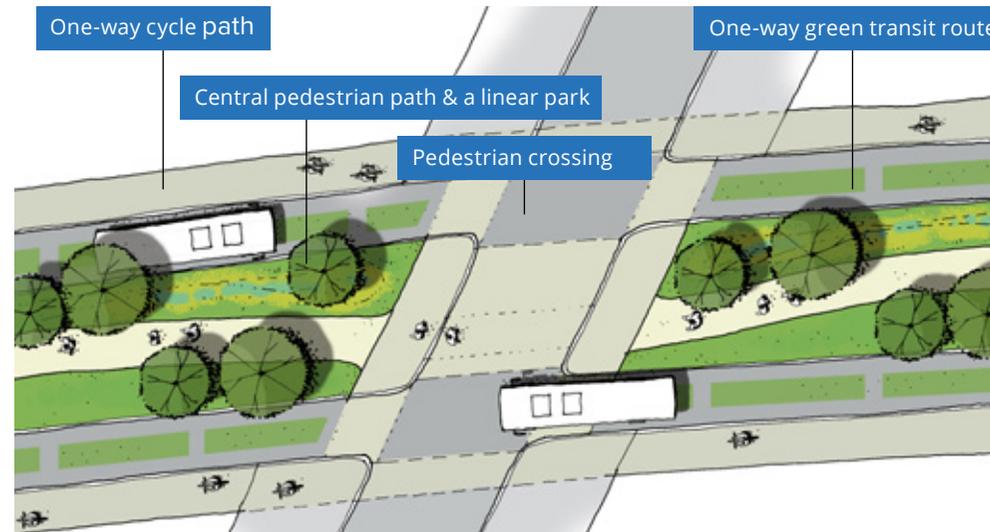
The proposed scheme

What will the scheme look like?

In order to create this sustainable transport corridor, a number of measures will need to be taken, including:

- the removal of overgrown vegetation along the route;
- the filling-in of the former railway line to bring it to the same ground level as the surrounding area; and
- reconnecting adjacent streets so they safely interact with the corridor and improve and improve the connections between east and west.

The green corridor will interact with the existing transport network and surrounding public spaces to make it highly accessible to all. It is envisaged that the green corridor will become a catalyst for further development within the wider area through the provision of high-quality, future-proofed access for all.



The key features of the green corridor will be:

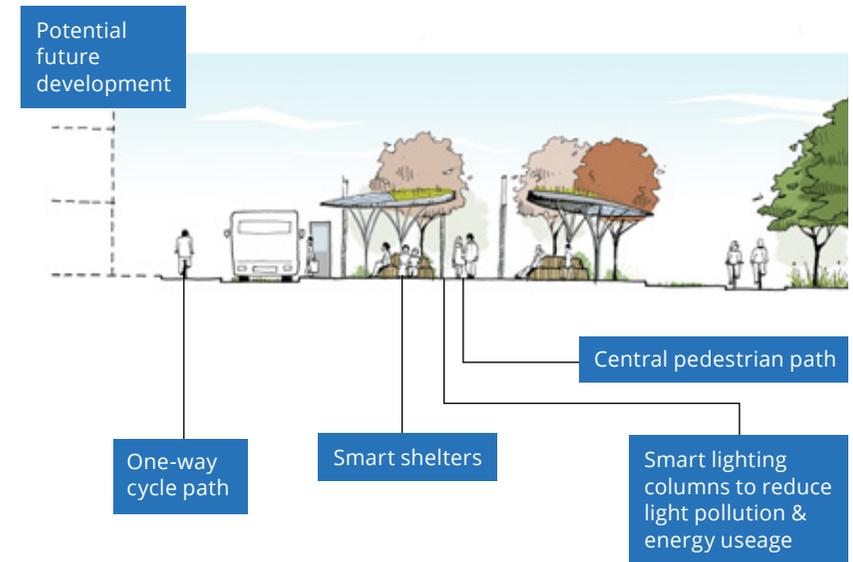
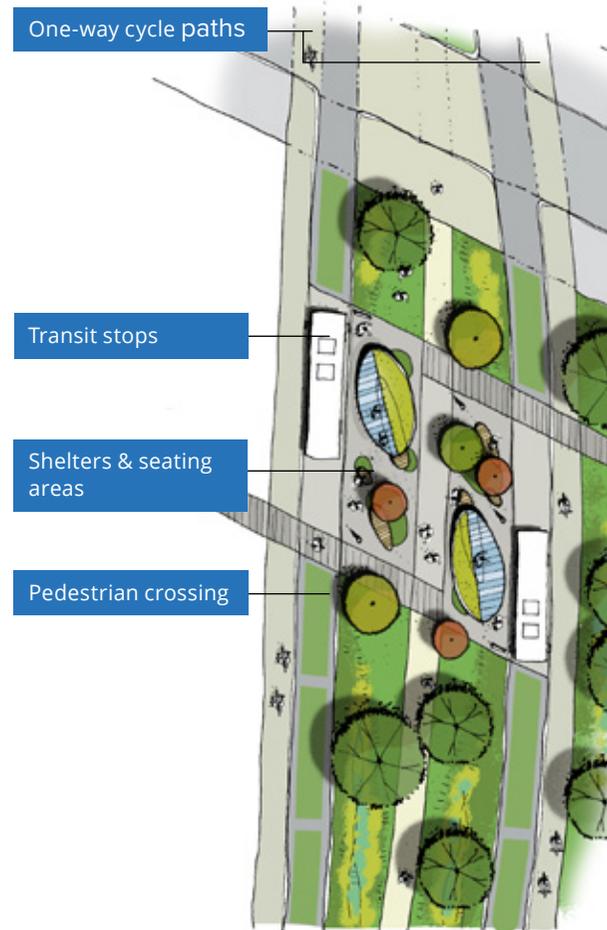
- a linear park to create a pleasant environment for residents and visitors alike to pass through and spend time in;
- public transit only lanes to provide efficient north-south public transport from the proposed Wirral Waters site to the centre of Birkenhead;
- north and south separate cycle lanes to provide a safe route for cyclists;
- reconnecting streets currently cut-off by the old railway line; and
- CCTV and street lighting to ensure personal security.

The opportunity

The measures outlined will support the move to improve connectivity within Birkenhead and the surrounding areas and to encourage more people to use active and sustainable travel. It is envisaged that the route will create a welcoming and attractive transport hub that will provide an array of benefits to the community.

The new green corridor will bring great opportunities:

- it will transform the former railway into an inviting linear park;
- a regionally-recognised cultural hub of activity;
- a network of high-quality pedestrian and cyclist facilities, providing safer routes and quicker journey times;
- a sustainable design that is resilient and future-proof in the long-term;
- an attractive and inviting space that will be accessible for all ages and abilities;
- is sensitively designed to enhance the surrounding area; and
- will ensure the people of the Wirral are connected to opportunities both locally and beyond.



How can I comment / Next steps

How to respond to the consultation

Wirral Council would like to hear your views on the Birkenhead Green Corridor proposals. Your comments will support detailed design development and the planning application process. Please share your views on the following:

- Overall impression
- Links to the wider transport network
- Facilities
- Design

You can have your say on these proposals, which are available online at wirral.gov.uk/greencorridor, by contacting us on:

- greencorridor@wirral.gov.uk
- or by post to PO Box 290 Brighton Street Wallasey Wirral CH27 9FQ.

This online exhibition will run inclusively from Wednesday, 5th August to Sunday, 23rd August.

