

## **Web Article – Feedback on Maritime Corridor Consultation - You Said We Did / Are Doing**

A public consultation was held on the Maritime Corridor Improvements scheme, between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The Maritime Corridor area reaches from Switch Island to Netherton Way (A5038) and links Atlantic Park to the wider region and the Port of Liverpool. The potential improvements involve the upgrade of 5 key junctions throughout the area; as well as providing better facilities for walking and cycling. The key aim of the scheme is to improve the traffic conditions and make the area more accessible for all transport users.

The following summarises the finding and next steps after this public consultation.

### **Overview of Public Engagement and Consultation**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, public events could not be held however the Sefton Council Contact Centre phone line was available for those unable to assess or complete the online survey.

The Maritime Corridor improvements will look to improve conditions for traffic and for people to get to and around the area by all modes of travel including public transport, walking and cycling. By improving conditions this will help to reduce congestion, which in turn will help to alleviate air pollution concerns and the regions public health. It is also an important scheme to help unlock the economic potential of the area. Development of this area is important for the growth of the wider Borough and managing the potential increases in traffic and travel generally is a key challenge that this scheme is trying to address.

An Outline Business Case and Early designs have been developed for this scheme which have involved traffic modelling and consideration of traffic movements, and all environmental and social and economic impacts. The consultation results will be used to inform the next stages of the scheme the Council moves towards applying for funding and confirming the final designs. Noting that funding for the scheme is not yet secured and it is still at the early stages of design, all comments from the consultation will be considered. Further modelling, air quality and noise and social impact assessments will also take place at the next stages following this consultation.

### **Findings of the consultation**

Within the Your Sefton Your Say survey the public had an opportunity to comment on all individual elements of the scheme. The main findings and some myth busting / answers to some key queries and concerns can be found below:

- We received 146 response to the online survey. All have been reviewed and analysed alongside emails that came directly via email.
- The Overall response to each junction improvement and the active travel measures was either neutral (neither supportive nor unsupportive) or supportive / very supportive.
- There were some concerns about the scheme potentially causing increased traffic and pollution and safety concerns, we have explained in the table below how these concerns have been looked at in the development of the scheme

- All comments that have been received and relate specifically to the design elements have been passed onto the scheme designers. These will be considered at part of the design process as it evolves.
- All comments made about the engagement materials and process have been noted and will be considered for future consultations. It is however acknowledged that any communications need to be accessible for all members of the public.

We have picked out the key themes and concerns and tried to answer them below:

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<p>There are concerns that the scheme will just lead to increased traffic; and more lanes of traffic at certain junctions would just mean more traffic.</p>	<p>The scheme has been designed and developed to mitigate the current congestion and the potential future traffic that may result as part of development at key sites on Atlantic Park and in the wider area.</p> <p>Sefton Council are improving junctions with this scheme and not increasing or adding to the existing road network area.</p> <p>Atlantic Park has been designated for development within Sefton’s Local Plan. The scheme itself will therefore not attract traffic but will be an enabler for better movement of traffic and accessibility by all modes of transport.</p> <p>The scheme is set against an already busy situation that may get busier due to development ; however, the Council want to ease this and encourage alternative modes as far as possible. Active travel elements are therefore being embedded throughout the scheme.</p>
<p>There is a need to build Rimrose Valley and this will then directly relate to what is done in the Maritime Corridor area. This is just a “meantime” option before Rimrose.</p> <p>What is happening with the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme?</p> <p>It’s not clear how the scheme relates to Port activities and the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme</p>	<p>A separate scheme is being progressed by Highways England to alleviate congestion on the A5036 by constructing a new bypass through Rimrose Valley to improve access to the Port of Liverpool. This is known as the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme and this is not under the control of Sefton Council.</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic at the time of the consultation, the Highways England</p>

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	<p>scheme has been delayed and has not received the Development Consent Order, meaning no further progress had been made towards the delivery. In response Sefton Council has agreed in principle to progress the Maritime Corridor scheme as a standalone scheme that is not dependent on the delivery of the Port of Access scheme. Sefton Council and Highways England are in continual contact and will work together wherever possible on improving transport throughout the wider area. It is highlighted however that the Maritime Corridor is not interdependent with the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme.</p>
<p>HGVs are a problem and this will increase</p> <p>There is going to be a HGV site / parking site on Atlantic Park</p>	<p>There are no plans to excessively increase HGV traffic to and through the area. Any increases would be proportionate with development but there are no plans to create a HGV parking facility within the area.</p>
<p>Air and Noise pollution are already high and will get worse.</p> <p>Not supportive of Sefton's Climate Emergency for GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Consideration of both air and noise have been qualitatively assessed as part of the development of the early stages of the scheme, in accordance with the Department for Transport guidance in these areas.</p> <p>Because the road network area is not being increased the noise impacts were found to be slight.</p> <p>Air quality and pollution are key environmental factors which are being fully considered.</p> <p>Sefton Council's has declared a Climate Emergency (2019) and is committed to comply with worldwide agreements in relation to climate change and be net zero by 2030. Sefton Council aims to improved air quality throughout the whole Borough. This will be achieved via technological improvements, reduced travel, better congestion management and promoting sustainable travel modes. This scheme has been considered under these objectives and further scoping of air quality assessments is being undertaken as part of the next steps of the development of the</p>

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	<p>scheme. Initial air quality assessments found that the air quality impacts would be considered slight. Active travel measures are hoped to mitigate this further by being integrated into the scheme ; and this will be assessed at the next stages.</p>
<p>Safety will not be improved it will be made worse</p>	<p>One of the main objectives of the scheme is to improve safety for all road users at junctions on all routes within the corridor. The potential inclusion of the segregated cycling and walking improvements would enable enhanced safety and wellbeing. Prior assessments have found that safety benefits will be not be adversely affected throughout the scheme.</p>