CABINET - 19 JULY 2022

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions

1. COUNCILLOR IAN MIDDLETON

Cllr Enright will no doubt recall the site visit to the A40 works that he attended along with myself, Cllr Gant, Cllr Levy and various officers to look at concerns raised by local councillors and cycling groups about the poorly laid out transition points along the new cycle path near to the Oxford North development site. We were given reassurances by officers and contractors at the time that these problems would be addressed before the path was fully opened. It appears that these promises have not been kept and the layouts have not changed.

There has also been condemnation by cycling groups of the proposed alterations to the Kidlington Roundabout which have just been put out to consultation in a form which I have repeatedly criticised in briefings with officers. Again, I and other members and officers met on site there a few weeks ago in the wake of the death of a cyclist nearby earlier this year. During numerous briefings over a period of nearly a year I was given reassurances that the concerns I and others had raised with regard to cycling infrastructure on the roundabout would be addressed. Again, this has not happened.

Cabinet Member

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN ENRIGHT, TRAVEL & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The consultation for the Kidlington Roundabout proposal is open until 29 July 2022. Once all comments have been received, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) will evaluate the responses and make recommendations as appropriate. In the meantime, officers will continue to engage with key stakeholders to discuss the proposals.

Revisions to the new development junction design to improve the experience for shared path users across the southern arm, as agreed on site with Councillors, have been defined and scoped. OCC has been working with the on-site contractor to try and achieve cost reductions, as the initial pricing was much higher than anticipated. This work is currently unfunded and is going through OCC internal governance to approve the increase in budget, which is required to implement the changes. All other identified improvements for active travel at crossing points along the Oxford North scheme extent (that were discussed on site) will need to form part of a separate project motivation and new funding request for implementation at a later date. This is as agreed on site.

Questions	Cabinet Member
As both the areas concerned are within my division, can the cabinet member give me a commitment that he will urgently look into these matters and report back to me and other local stakeholders and cycling groups about how our concerns will be addressed? Can he also give assurances that he will impress on officers that they need to be more responsive to feedback from local members over highway infrastructure schemes in the future.	