

Summary of Chelmsford cycling and walking plans

September 2024








INTRODUCTION

Local Cycling and Walking Plans — known as LCWIPs — are plans which set out a network of cycling and walking routes which have been agreed at a local level. These plans were first identified and worked on in 2019 but because there have been many changes in Chelmsford over the last few years, it was timely to update the network plans now.

Agreeing these cycling and walking network plans will allow us to apply for local and central government funding which we can use to build new infrastructure along the different routes which make up the overall network in Chelmsford. Examples of new infrastructure include segregated (separate) cycling paths, dropped kerbs, new or upgraded road crossings and wider pavements.

Our ambition is to make our streets safer, greener and healthier for everybody and ultimately give residents a choice in how they travel around the city.

Why we want to encourage walking and cycling in Chelmsford

-  Regular walking and cycling can improve physical and mental health.
-  Walking and cycling is often the easiest way to get around your area.
-  Improve air quality.
-  If more people walk and cycle in their local areas e.g. to school or the shops, there will be less congestion on the roads.
-  Help us reach our net zero targets.

In order to finalise the cycling and walking network plans, we held a public consultation with city residents, businesses and stakeholders in late summer/autumn 2023. We wanted to understand if the draft network plans we were proposing accurately reflected the local journeys that residents and businesses are most likely to undertake on foot, by bike or wheeling. We also wanted to find out whether we had missed out any key routes as well as get more of an understanding about resident priorities when it comes to walking and cycling in Chelmsford.

Please note that the development of individual infrastructure schemes along the routes is a separate process altogether and will only happen if funding becomes available. The development will be undertaken on a scheme-by-scheme basis and will be consulted on with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders. For more information about how we prioritise and progress individual schemes, please download our process map [here](#).

This report summarises the main findings from the public consultation and sets out the final network cycling and walking maps for Chelmsford.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to get involved and tell us their views.

You can read more detailed information about the feedback we received by downloading the full consultation report.

SUMMARY

The Chelmsford consultation took place between 31st July and the 15th October 2023.

Here's how we invited people to take part in the consultation:

- A survey was made available online as well as in hard copy (for those who requested it). In addition to answering the survey questions, respondents were also able to add in their own comments.
- We held meetings with local stakeholders.

We wanted to make sure that as many people as possible knew about the opportunities to get involved in the consultation so it was advertised via local social media channels and shared with local Chelmsford community groups. We also issued a press release to the local media (see [here](#)).

We received 136 responses to the consultation.

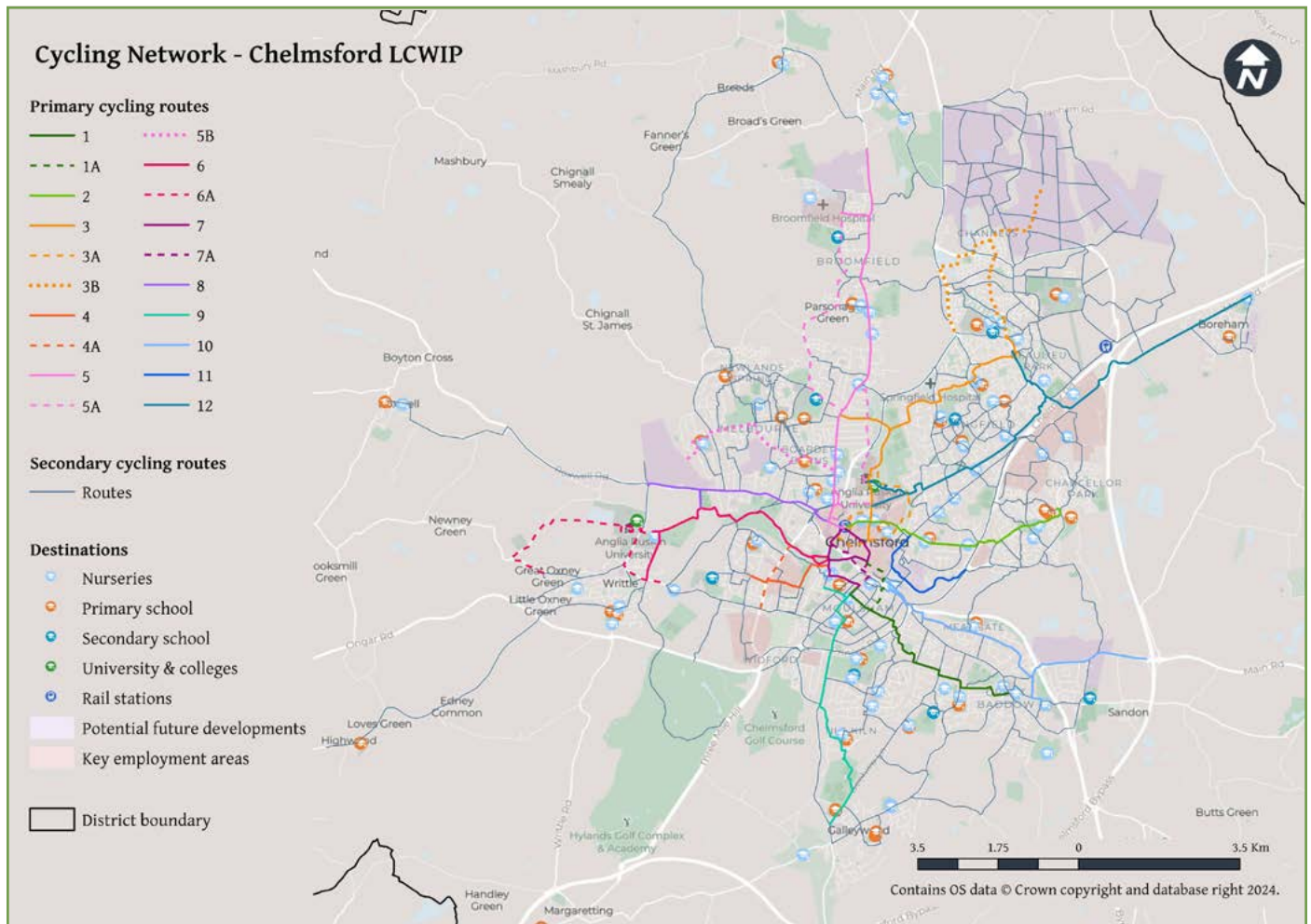
Support for the proposed cycling and walking networks:

When it comes to cycling, 57% of respondents approved the proposed cycling network plan. 56% felt the proposed cycling network plan accurately reflected the local area and 55% agreed that the routes connected to the right destinations.

When it comes to walking, just over half (54%) of respondents approved the proposed walking network plan, just over half again (54%) felt that the proposed walking network accurately reflected the local area and 51% agreed that the walking routes connected to the right destinations.

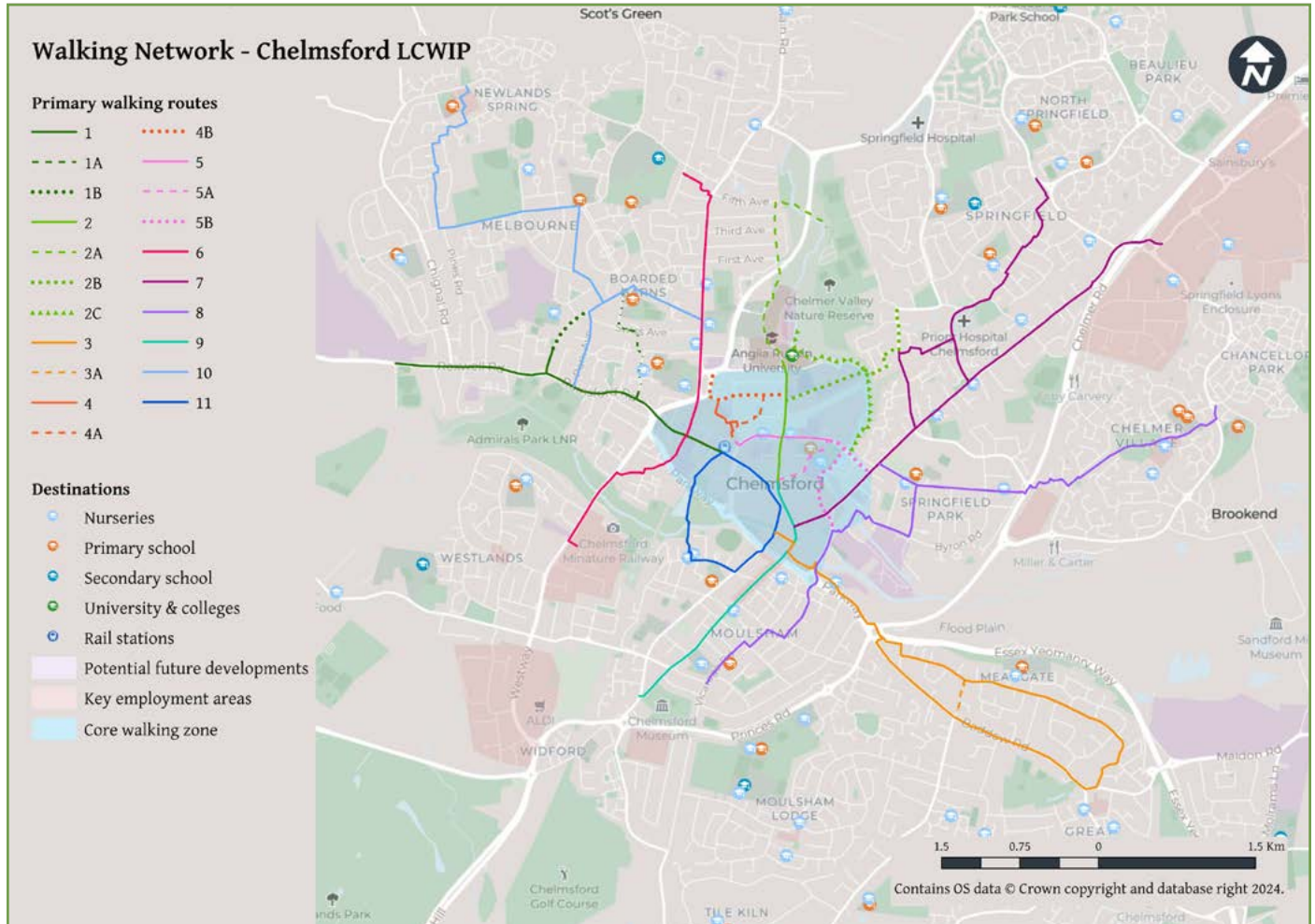


FINAL CHELMSFORD CYCLING NETWORK MAP



For a full description of each cycling route in the network, please refer to the route descriptions document.

FINAL CHELMSFORD WALKING NETWORK MAP



For a full description of each walking route in the network, please refer to the route descriptions document.

NEXT STEPS

We will now focus on two key actions:

Prioritise schemes:

We will shortly be undertaking studies to help us prioritise the schemes for development along the new cycling and walking routes.

Continue to explore funding opportunities:

We will continue to explore and apply for as many funding opportunities as possible which will mean we have the funding in place to pay for any of the new schemes which we bring forward for development.

31st July – 15th October 2023

Consultation on local cycling and walking network plans

Summer 2024

Publish Report

Autumn/Winter 2024/2025

Development of pipeline of infrastructure schemes

