

Cheshire East Council Local Plan Part 2

Poynton Town Council: SADPD examination

Matter 7 Transport and infrastructure

Protection of existing and proposed infrastructure (Policy INF 6)

Q113. Should the SADPD and Policies Map continue to safeguard the route of the Poynton Relief Road, given that it has not yet been completed, to ensure it is effective in supporting the cross-boundary proposals for Woodford Aerodrome?

The Town Council has actively supported the construction of the Poynton Relief Road. The main contractor is Graham and they have previously undertaken similar schemes in the Cheshire area. The clients are the two local authorities (Cheshire East Council and Stockport Council) as the new road scheme lies within both areas, albeit mostly within Cheshire. The project contract was awarded in September 2019 and the main project work is due for completion in Autumn with landscape maintenance continuing for a further five years to 2027.

The programme involves the creation of the 3.5 km two way single carriageway road which would run to the south west and west of the main part of Poynton town. The contractor is also responsible for the upgrade of two junctions along the A523 London Road to the south in the direction of Macclesfield town. These two off-site junctions are at two key junctions along this section of road at Adlington crossroads and the junction with Bonis Hall Lane close to the settlements of Prestbury and Bollington. Other features of the road include cycleway and footway facilities, two new accommodation bridges and balancing ponds for drainage.

The road scheme is one component of the wider project known as the South East Manchester Multi-Modal Strategy. The two main aims of the relief road are to relieve the existing traffic in and around Poynton town centre and to improve the connectivity between Macclesfield, Stockport, Manchester Airport and the smaller towns in the wider south Manchester and north Cheshire areas. A range of other measures to address road safety and congestion issues along the A523 between Macclesfield and Poynton is also planned.

The objectives of the scheme have been identified as follows:

- Support the economic, physical, and social regeneration of Poynton and the north of the area, in particular, Macclesfield
- Transfer Heavy Goods Vehicles onto more appropriate roads on the wider network and relieve existing traffic congestion in Poynton
- Deliver a range of complementary measures on the A523 corridor to Macclesfield that address road safety, congestion and mitigation of the wider environmental impact of traffic
- Increase business integration and productivity by improving the efficiency and reliability of the highway network and reducing the conflict between local and through traffic, by the improved route for freight and business travel
- Allow improvements to the highway network for public transport, walking, and cycling

In terms of progress, ground investigation works commenced in March to May 2020. Current work includes the diversion of facilities (January 2021 to Summer 2022), earthworks and drainage (April 2021 to Summer 2022) and a range of accommodation, construction and landscaping works. The project completion date is due for Autumn 2022.

The contractor has sought to engage actively with local communities impacted by the construction works in a variety of ways. For example, regular project updates of progress are sent by email to those who have signed up to receive these. For further information to keep up to date with the project, the contact email is as follows:

www.graham.co.uk/poynton-relief-road

In terms of question 113 regarding the SADPD and Policies Map, the Town Council would support the need to continue to safeguard the route of the Poynton Relief Road. Although construction progress to date has been good, the Autumn and Winter seasons being different challenges to those in Spring and Summer in terms of weather, daylight and the like.

Conclusion

Poynton Town Council would support the continuation of safeguarding the route of the Poynton Relief Road whilst acknowledging the good progress made to date since construction work commenced in March 2020. The SADPD and Policies Map should continue to reflect the current route of the Poynton Relief Road whilst under construction.