



Ryde interchange project - Questions and Answers

Question: What are the main changes proposed?

Answer:

The project involves a number of enhancements to make the Ryde Transport Interchange area more attractive, reducing the dominance of motor vehicles and improving priority to pedestrians and doing so in such a way that it respects the historic pier / rail station and celebrates local heritage.

The main elements include:

- Remodelling and refurbishment of the Esplanade bus interchange to create a better environment for bus users/pedestrians making it easier and safer for buses to manoeuvre in and around the bus station and allowing services to exit via George Street, operating more efficiently and reliably.
- Reinstatement of the pier tramway to provide a new separate 'boardwalk' facility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Refurbishment of the station buildings including new, fully accessible disabled toilets, a new façade, remodelled / expanded concessions and access to the boardwalk
- Improvement of cycling links to and through the interchange linking with the existing cycleway to Puckpool in the east and Ladies Walk in the west.

New seating and planting and the creation of more areas of public use and opening up of views of the historic pier are also proposed as part of the plans.

Question: What public consultation has taken place?

Answer:

The main highway-related elements of the proposal are based on former proposals to improve the interchange area. The current proposal has also been drafted very much in order to meet the criteria of the Government grant awarded under the

Transforming Cities Fund. A consultation on key elements of the plan; the type of planting, surfacing materials and street furniture, where we have more scope for community input, is now underway.

In reaching this stage, there has been prior engagement with Ryde Town Council, Ryde Business Association and the Ryde Regeneration Working Group. The results of the current consultation will be discussed further with these organisations. All views will help shape the final design, a decision on which will be made by the IW Council subject to its usual democratic processes.

Question: How much will this cost the IWC/Council taxpayer.

Answer:

Nothing. The project cost – around £10 million – is being met from a national Government grant from the Transforming Cities Fund. The Island's £10 million grant is part of a wider bid by the IW Council, Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council (as South East Hampshire Rapid Transport) to improve connectivity and active travel in South Hampshire. As it comes from Government grant, the project will not cost the IW Council or the IW Council taxpayer any money. Wightlink, Southern Vectis and South Western Railway have also made complementary contributions.

Question: What is the project timetable

Answer:

The findings of the consultation, which will close on 3 August will inform a decision on the way forward.

It is then anticipated work will begin early in 2022 and be completed by March 2023.

Question: What about the loss of toilets / café kiosk?

Answer:

The toilets on Western Gardens and the Ryde Pier Café will both make way for the new vehicular access to the pier and open up views of the historic pier.

This new vehicular access will provide scope to remodel the Esplanade bus interchange to create a better environment for bus users/pedestrians and make it easier and safer for buses to manoeuvre in and around the bus station and allowing services to exit via George Street, operating more efficiently and reliably.

Refurbishment of the station buildings will also include new, fully accessible disabled toilets, a new façade, remodelled / expanded concessions to offset the loss of the current café kiosk and provide access to the boardwalk.

Question: Will any green space / planting be lost?

Answer:

The main purpose of the project is to increase connectivity for travellers at the gateway to Ryde while at the same time making the area around the interchange, pier and Esplanade a better and safer place for people to visit and enjoy as a destination in itself. Therefore, although some planting will need to be removed to accommodate changes to the highway layout, there will be an increase overall in the number of landscaping/planting in this area.

Question: Will any public access / amenity areas be lost?

Answer:

The main purpose of the project is to increase connectivity for travellers at the gateway to Ryde while at the same time making the area around the interchange, pier and Esplanade a better and safer place for people to visit and enjoy as a destination in itself. Therefore, the proposals seek to increase and improve public amenity space and to reorganise that space to reduce the dominance of motor vehicles and improving priority to pedestrians.

Question: Will there be any loss of parking?

Answer:

The current plan envisages eight short-stay spaces being replaced by a taxi rank and loading bay on the southern side of the Esplanade. Two spaces fronting the Rose Garden will also be lost to provide a segregated cycle path.

Question: The last plan for a transport infrastructure never got off the ground. What is different about this one?

Answer:

The current plan focusses mainly on improving connectivity and active travel at the interchange whereas the previous project included a complete rebuild and expansion of the interchange building on the Esplanade. That approach was not taken forward at the time because of commercial issues which have been avoided through the partnership approach adopted for this new smaller-scale project.

Question: What happened to the plans for an improved crossing to Hovertravel?

Answer:

In the original bid, we did seek funding for an improved crossing to Hovertravel, however this funding was rejected. Seeking funds for this improvement remains an important aim but it does not form part of the current, funded proposals.

Question: What is the council responsible for delivering as part of this scheme?

Answer: The council will be delivering the bus station, highway and cycling improvements.

Question: Where are the supporting reports that you might expect for a project like this e.g., report of the Conservation Officer, Environmental Statement etc

Answer: These reports are being developed alongside the consultation to inform a decision on the way forward.

Question: How is this scheme addressing accessibility requirements for the public?

Answer: We have considered a number of aspects of accessibility in developing the plans for this scheme including the need for older people to cross the road more easily through such measures as shortened distances, appropriately timed signalised crossings and kerb heights. We have also looked at including tactile crossings and we are trying to improve the segregation of bikes and people so that all parties feel safer and increase the areas where pedestrians are prioritised in terms of public space and movement between areas. We are also working closely with South Western Railway on their plans for their refurbished, accessible toilet facilities within the remodelled station building.

Question: Where can I find more information about the funding for this scheme?

Answer: The information on the Transforming Cities Fund can be found on the Department for Transport's website on this link [here](#).

Question: Why has there been a delay to launching the consultation?

Answer: The funding for the scheme was confirmed in October 2020, since then the scheme has been further refined to reflect the funding and the various consultation documents prepared. The consultation was due to launch in April/May 2021 but because of the local elections and preceding period of purdah the decision was made to wait until after the elections and until the new administration could be briefed on the proposed plans and consultation.

Question: What is Island Roads role in this and is this part of the Highways PFI contract?

Answer: Island Roads are the Isle of Wight Council's delivery partners for this scheme. The scheme does not form part of the Highways PFI contract and is funded by the Transforming Cities Fund.

Question: How will people hear about this consultation?

Answer: A series of face-face briefings has taken place with councillors, Ryde Town Council, Ryde Business Association and Ryde Regeneration Working Group, other stakeholder groups will receive a letter and links to the consultation document. There is also a news release for local media, and we will also be using our social media channels to let people know that it is taking place. We will also be using the bus screens to promote the consultation and large information boards within the Esplanade bus station. A dedicated web page has also been established on the council's website and on Island Roads website with links to the relevant documents. Hard copies of the consultation document and survey are also being made available on request.