The Wakefield Eastern Relief Road (WERR) will be an alternative route around the City Centre and will therefore reduce congestion and increase accessibility.

This additional highway capacity will improve conditions for bus services, pedestrians and cyclists and open up further opportunities to provide complementary sustainable transport measures within and to the Lower Kirkgate Area, such as cycle lanes and improvements for buses.

Why do we need this new relief road?

- To help relieve congestion in and around Wakefield city centre, making it easier and quicker to get around.
- To open up land which can provide around 2,500 new homes for the district’s growing number of households over the next 15 years.
- To improve access to existing employment sites and key transport routes, including the M1 and M62, helping support creation of over 4,000 new jobs.
- To improve the environment and experience of visiting Wakefield city centre, encouraging people to visit and businesses to open.
- To reduce traffic-related pollution within the city.
- To improve pedestrian and cycling facilities and encourage more people to get out and about for recreation and health.
Project overview

The planned urban extension of new homes and businesses to the east of Wakefield was agreed in the Council’s Local Development Framework to help the district’s economy and supply of homes to grow.

This is covered by a special Planning policy, namely Special Policy Area (SPA) 2. The Wakefield Eastern Relief Road is also allocated as a key transport scheme under Policy TS2. A Masterplan for the area has been developed and been subject to extensive consultation.

The proposal for this new road has been included in the Development Framework to help the district’s economy and supply of homes to grow.

Progress to date

- Detailed design of the road is complete.
- June 2014 Initial sifting of potential contractors for the construction of the road.
- 15 & 16 July 2014 Public exhibitions will take place.
- August 2014 Planning Application for the WERR to be submitted, with a view for a decision December 2014.
- September 2014 Tender Documents to be sent out.
- Easter 2015 Work is expected to commence on site.
- Over Christmas 2015 Agree with Network Rail to construct the new bridge under the railway.
- May 2017 Scheme to be completed and road opened to traffic.

Frequently asked questions

The following answers the: Why, Where, When and How of the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road.

Q. Why do we need another road?

As part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) process, the Council commissioned consultants to undertake a traffic modelling exercise on the likely impact of development across the district. This output showed that:

a) the new road is the only sustainable option to address the current and future traffic problems in and around Wakefield; and

b) the new road will be highly beneficial to the local economy. In addition the WERR will enable the “freeing up” of important road space along the A638 and A642 road corridors for public transport priority and improved cycle links.

Q. The road will not act as a relief road because of all the development that will occur after it is constructed.

The WERR is based on integrated strategic planning work at a number of levels. The work has not only assessed existing transportation, economic, planning and sustainability issues but has anticipated and addressed needs and solutions over the LDF timeframe in that it is seen as a long term strategic approach rather than a short term fix.

The WERR is the critical link needed in the east of Wakefield essential to unlock the wider housing and development areas allocated in the LDF, including approx. 2500 new homes, whilst reducing congestion of the existing network.

Q. When will the exact route of the road be made available?

The detailed design is now complete. The intention is to hold public exhibitions in July 2014. This is not a consultation exercise to determine if a road is to be built as that decision was made at the LDF Inquiry - it is an information giving process to allow residents to comment on the proposed design of the new road.

Q. What type of road will be built?

Based on our assessments and current design guidance a single carriageway will be adequate. This will be lit, have a speed limit of 30mph and will potentially be a new bus route.

Q. Where can I view the planning permission for the WERR?

It is the aim to submit the planning application in August 2014. You will be able to view the planning application on the Council’s Planning Web Site. Notifications will be posted on lamp posts around the site at that time.

Q. What sort of buffer will be included between the road and proposed new homes on the City Fields sites?

This is still to be determined. However, an assessment of the environmental impact of the scheme will be undertaken and appropriate solutions sought. However, the road is not meant to be a “bypass” with houses backing on to it. However, the housing developments should front onto the road.

Q. Will I be compensated if the road disturbs my property?

In certain circumstances compensation can be paid for loss of amenity and value of property through Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. Claims through Part 1 of this act are valid after 12 months of the opening of the road. You will need to seek legal advice if you think your amenity value has been affected.

Q. Will the Council use compulsory purchase orders to acquire the land?

No, land negotiations with the owners of the land have been positive and the Council does not currently foresee any need to use Compulsory Purchase powers. However, this is a priority scheme for the Council and the option for a CPO would be pursued if necessary.

Q. How can I contact you with comments?

When contacting us please provide your name and contact details. We will respond within 10 working days to all enquiries.

You can send your comments to:

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