



FAO Connecting Leeds

29 November 2023

Re: Leeds City Links Consultation – a response from the Leeds Civic Trust

Thanks for taking the time to consult with the city of Leeds via the ‘Leeds City Links’ proposals with ambitions to improve the city centre streets and active travel infrastructure.

Leeds Civic Trust has consistently supported the provision of high-quality infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists as well as improvements to the public realm. Therefore, we support the principle of repurposing of road space on the two corridors which are the subject of this consultation and as logical extensions of the city centre cycling and walking infrastructure.

However, we are concerned that the proposed cycle infrastructure appears to be over-engineered particularly given the reduced traffic levels in the city centre now and 20 mph speed limits. It would be preferable if elements of the City Boulevard concept as adopted in the South Bank SPD (which covers the area south of the railway viaduct) could be followed here. This would allow cycleways alongside the pavements in both directions, street design would be much simpler and give the opportunity for wider pavements and more greenery, incorporating good, legible street layout and landscaping. Our overriding concern is that there appears to be minimal change apart from the introduction of the cycleways with too much of the essentially redundant road space retained.

We note the removal of several areas of on-street parking along Great George Street. For visitors to the Infirmary, this will be compensated by the provision of the new multi-storey car park. However, we question whether this will cause difficulty for less mobile members of the community. It appears that existing blue badge parking spaces will be retained but are more needed?

We understand that the main vehicle exit from the new LGI site will be onto Portland Street. Have the implications of this for the scheme been considered in the design proposals?

Discussions have taken place recently with LCC regarding potential improvements to the Eastside area of Leeds. We would ask that the final scheme properly reflects the potential for the Eastside proposals to be introduced. In particular, we note that the existing lanes and segregated cycleways are maintained in the current scheme. This would need to be amended if proposals to create new and reimagined public space at the Minster were implemented.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

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Director of Leeds Civic Trust
Leeds Civic Trust

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