

Case study

# Loughborough town centre transport scheme

Project:

Loughborough town centre transport scheme

Client:

Leicestershire County Council

Contractor:

Ringway / Eurovia Contracting

Contract value:

£8.5m

Completion date:

October 2014

Background

Loughborough town centre transport scheme is a major public realm and highways improvement project. The strategic aim of the project was to upgrade the transport infrastructure around the town centre whilst also providing improved aesthetics and access to shopping facilities and ensure capacity for continued growth and development.

The scope of works included:

- Construction of a 1km inner relief road around the town centre; being an extension and re-route of the A6.
- Pedestrianisation of Swan Street and Market Place with high quality concrete paved surfaces.
- Installation of contemporary styled bus shelters and street furniture.
- Signalisation and improvement of the Epinal Way / Forest Road roundabout junction.
- Hard and soft landscaping throughout and provision of pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

Eurovia was selected as the preferred contractor, with the project procured using the MHA MSF1.

Objective

The objective of the scheme was to remove through-traffic on the busy A6 that conflicted with pedestrians in the heart of Loughborough. The proposal removed this conflict, separating pedestrians and heavy vehicle flows without undermining transport access, thus improving the shopping experience in the town centre. Alongside this, the scheme enabled regeneration of the town centre, improved public transport links and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities.

The scheme was delivered in three phases. The first phase was the construction of the new inner relief road which started in May 2013 and was completed in March 2014, four weeks ahead of planned completion. This enabled the early opening of the relief road and facilitated the works of the next two phases, for both the Market Place and the roundabout upgrading works.

Success of the team

The early completion of phase one and the unprecedented support from local residents and businesses is a result of the proactive approach taken by Leicestershire County Council and Eurovia to deliver the project. The project team has been assisted by the support of the MHA to strategically monitor project performance and incentivise wider community enhancement. The success is testament to more than simply an understanding of the civil engineering and management complexities. A fundamental appreciation of the aspirations and needs of those directly affected by the scheme, from inception through to works execution and project handover, is also demonstrated.

Some of the examples of how Leicestershire County Council and Eurovia have jointly and successfully managed the project to exceed the expectations of stakeholders include:

- Extensive public consultation with local residents and businesses.
- Employment of a full-time public liaison officer.
- Holding a weekly planned public drop-in 'surgery'.
- Maintaining regular correspondence with all local residents and businesses; including leaflets, letter drops, and individual meetings and appointments.
- Facilitating a workshop for site personnel – 'Excellence in the community'.
- Planning and delivering the works on time, right first time, safely, diligently and professionally.

Benefitting all

Throughout the project, there has been a strong commitment to support the local community. This has been demonstrated by:

- Local schools partnership – for example, constructing planters and donation of a time capsule for Cobden Primary School.
- Provision of materials and labour for the landscaping of community areas – for example, Chapman Street Gardens and Loughborough in Bloom 2013 & 2014.

Throughout the project, a high regard has been promoted for the safety and welfare of the workers and the general public. Examples of this include:

- Managing the work logistics around special events.
- Visits to local schools to raise awareness of site and road safety.
- Organising safety walks and braille leaflets for students of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

- Installation of temporary manned crossings for vulnerable road users.
- The team has made significant savings of around £1.6m, all being cashable, demonstrable cost saving.

As well as sharing innovation and best practice, the project has demonstrated exemplary work on much broader matters, such as the success of the Employment and Skills Plan, which continues to be shared with other members of the framework.

Key achievements of the project

- Scored independently 43/50 by the Considerate Constructors Scheme and awarded 'Performance beyond compliance' for the site's positive impression and innovative approach to public engagement.
- Well-developed environmental practises have enabled initial recycling targets of 95% to be exceeded with 97% being achieved.

- Success of the Employment and Skills Plan (includes the employment of one graduate, five young person and undergraduate placements, two apprentices and six local employments).
- Health and Safety training and awareness delivered (five people on SMSTS/ SSSTS, ten people attended managing H&S course).
- Nine local community and educational hosting events have been held.
- 50+ people working on site have attended skilled (short) courses.
- Five members of staff trained and attained CSCS or CPCS cards.

This is another project which demonstrates the success of MSF1 and the efficiency and savings that can be made by working together under the Alliance framework.

