

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 August 2018

Report of the Head of Service Planning and Environment

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy (Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

The county council has led local and national transport and public health partners in preparing the Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy: Actively Moving Forward.

The strategy is in line with the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy which aims to deliver a transformation in cycling and walking infrastructure and participation rates. The preparation of the strategy, and in due course the preparation of Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans, will position the three Lancashire Local Transport Authorities and the twelve district authorities favourably for future government and local investment opportunities.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy document, presented at Appendix 'A', for publication subject to Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils also approving the document for publication.
- (ii) Delegate responsibility to approve any further changes to the strategy to the Executive Director for Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport .

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| (iii) Note that draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the five Highway and Transport Masterplan areas of Central Lancashire, Lancaster, West Lancashire, Fylde Coast and East Lancashire, will be submitted to Cabinet in due course, for the purposes of wider consultation. |
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Background and Advice

A draft Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy was consulted upon last year. Lancashire County Council and partner organisations have worked collaboratively to finalise the Lancashire strategy taking account of consultation feedback and updated government guidance - the national Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Technical Guidance. The county council and its partners are now in a position to publicise the strategy and to progress work on the preparation of five Lancashire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the county.

The national Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2017 sets out the Government's ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey. The strategy has objectives to significantly increase cycling and walking levels, including for school children, and to also reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured.

The Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy - Actively Moving Forward (presented at Appendix 'A') is proposed to be published as the integrated approach for cycling and walking activity across Lancashire on behalf of the three Lancashire Local Transport Authorities. The three Local Transport Authorities are now asked to approve the joint strategy.

The Strategy vision is to see *'more people walking and cycling for every day and leisure journeys in Lancashire'*. The targets represent an ambitious and unequivocal statement of intent for long term change over the next 10 years: a doubling of numbers of people cycling; a 10% increase in numbers of people walking; and to reduce levels of physical inactivity in every district to at least the national average.

The Strategy presents the case for investing in cycling and walking in Lancashire, with benefits spread across the economy, health and wellbeing, the environment and local communities. It organises the various actions and justification for these across three mutually reinforcing 'themes':

- i. **PLACE** to maximise Lancashire's range of existing walking and cycling assets and scale up current investment to create joined up networks and facilities.
- ii. **PEOPLE** to bring about behaviour change and support people to walk and cycle to employment, training and learning.
- iii. **PROMOTION** to engage with different audiences, promote the Lancashire cycling and walking offer and to inspire people to travel actively.

The implementation of the strategy and the development of supporting investment plans will help the county to be ready:

- to make successful cases to bid for further investment for Lancashire;
- to add value to new and existing rail and road investment;
- to support communities to accessing training and employment by active travel; and
- to increase cycling and walking participation and to maximise benefits in terms of congestion, air quality, health, social deprivation and cohesion.

The publication of the Strategy will demonstrate a commitment to increasing levels of physical activity across the county, helping to deliver healthy lifestyle objectives contained in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report: *Securing our Health and Wellbeing 2016* and complementing exercise initiatives including Your Mile, Your Way and Everybody Active, Every Day. The Strategy will also help to deliver outcomes contained in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the Lancashire 'Towards Zero' Road Safety Strategy.

The Strategy represents the first stage in positioning Lancashire for future funding opportunities and delivering a comprehensive and coordinated programme of infrastructure and activities to support cycling and walking. Delivery of the strategy will be an incremental approach, as funding is secured within the strategic framework set out in this document.

A draft of the Strategy has already been used successfully in support of bids to secure funding. A revenue grant award of £1.9m Access Fund was awarded to Lancashire County Council for the Access to Employment and Education project for East Lancashire; and Blackpool Council has also received Access Fund funding as the lead partner for the 'Walk to School' programme.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

Implementation of the Strategy will be through the preparation of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans covering the county.

The Department for Transport has produced technical guidance for the production of these Local Infrastructure Plans. The government intends for these plans to set out a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at a local level and local authorities that have prepared these plans will be well placed to make the case for future investment in cycling and walking infrastructure.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans are intended to provide a long-term approach to the development of cycling and walking networks, and will have key outputs of: a network plan with preferred cycling and walking routes (primary and secondary) and core walking zones; a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment and; a report which sets out the underlying analysis and narrative for the identified improvements and network. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will enable infrastructure improvements to be identified for the short, medium and longer terms and for cycling and walking to be integrated with land use and transport planning and development.

A joint bid, by the three Lancashire Local Transport Authorities for Department for Transport technical consultancy support for the preparation of Lancashire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans was successful in 2017. Work is now underway on the preparation of plans for Lancaster and West Lancashire, to support district local plan preparation. City Deal investment has also been used to prepare a Central Lancashire Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan, which will be reviewed and updated to become a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the Central Lancashire masterplan area.

The Strategy and the accompanying Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will inform and complement district local plans, the joint Lancashire Local Transport Plan 4 and highway, transport and economic development strategies. The preparation and delivery of these strategic documents will require continued engagement with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and Marketing Lancashire. The former has already secured significant levels of infrastructure investment for cycling projects throughout the county. Marketing Lancashire provides the promotional platform to maximise our walking and cycling visitor economy offer.

The Lancashire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will provide the basis for developing the pipeline of cycling and walking network infrastructure schemes for preparing funding applications/developer contribution requests (Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy), by demonstrating the feasibility, benefits and cost effectiveness of schemes of cycling and walking. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will also be supported by actions plans for supporting revenue activities relating to people and promotion activities as identified in the Strategy.

A motion was passed by Full Council in December 2017 for four actions to increase cycling and walking as normal travel modes for local trips. The draft Strategy at Appendix 'A' is consistent with the agreed motion; and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will also be prepared to be in accordance with the motion.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Equality and Cohesion

The strategy should not adversely impact any particular protected characteristics groups. The implementation of the strategy will require any specific needs of some groups' e.g. disabled and older people to be taken into account.

Risk management

Publication of a Cycling and Walking Strategy will position Lancashire well for future funding opportunities, particularly those with short bidding time frames. Failure to demonstrate a clear and coordinated, and properly evidenced and justified cycling and walking investment strategy and programme to government is likely to curtail future investment into the county for these purposes.

Financial

Preparation of the strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans will be contained within 2018/19 Planning and Environment Service revenue budget. Work to date, and moving forward, will be undertaken with the benefit of the involvement and expertise of our neighbouring Local Transport Authorities in Lancashire, and partnering with local and national cycling and walking representative groups. Production of Infrastructure Plans will also be assisted by consultancy support funded by the Department for Transport. The strategy provides the platform to position Lancashire for future funding opportunities.

List of Background Papers

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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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