

Cabinet

16 January 2019

**The County Durham
Strategic Cycling and Walking
Delivery Plan 2019-2029**



Report of Corporate Management Team

Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Councillor Carl Marshall, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report seeks approval from Cabinet to adopt the Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham 2019-2029.

Executive summary

- 2 The Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan sets out our ambition to make County Durham a place that is recognised as a cycling and walking friendly county, and that the networks are safe, accessible and well maintained. It also seeks to encourage more people, across all demographic groups, to take up cycling or walking for everyday journeys and that the quality of people's lives, health and fitness are improved.
- 3 The ten year delivery plan is accompanied by a five year Action Plan, which will be used to create an annual work programme enabling progress to be monitored against the overall delivery of the plan.

Recommendation

- 4 Cabinet is recommended to:
 - a) approve the final version of the Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham 2019-2029.

Background

- 5 The Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham supersedes the Cycling Strategy 2012-15, and sets out our long-term, local approach to deliver against the Government's ambitions to create a cycling and walking nation as established in the Department for Transport's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (2016).
- 6 In line with corporate guidance, the delivery plan consists of the following documents;
 - Review of County Durham's Cycling Strategy 2012-15
 - Plan on a Page
 - Evidence Base 2019-2029
 - Action Plan 2019-2024
 - Case Studies
- 7 The plan focusses on enabling cycling and walking for everyday journeys to reduce the reliance on car travel and create confident, active and healthy communities.
- 8 The delivery plan covers 2019-2029, but will have two five year action plans. The action plan will be reviewed in 2024 and a new action plan produced. The action plans will be used to create annual work programmes resulting in maintenance schemes, improvement projects, major infrastructure schemes, promotional events and campaigns.

Consultations

- 9 Two task and finish working groups (one internal, one external) were established to assist with the development of the delivery plan. The working groups consisted of a wide range of partners and provided expertise from a wealth of backgrounds including health, sport, physical activity, tourism, planning, spatial policy and sustainability.
- 10 The draft document was made available on the County Council website, Facebook and Twitter for a 6 week public consultation from 30 July to 7 September. A link to the consultation page was also emailed to an extensive list of stakeholders.
- 11 Presentations on the draft were also delivered at a meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and at the Active Durham Partnership.
- 12 We received 55 formal responses to the strategy. The responses were wide ranging and covered the scope, geographic areas and requirements of specific user groups.

- 13 Key issues for pedestrians were safety of shared use paths and pavement parking, which obstructs footways.
- 14 Cyclists main concerns were the need for secure cycle parking, continuity and joining up the existing network and maintenance of routes. The biggest general concern was in relation to the availability of resources to deliver the changes required. Driver behaviour was also cited as a key issue.
- 15 Where possible and appropriate we have taken on board and incorporated the comments to strengthen specific sections and have redrafted the document to produce this final version. All the comments have been compiled into a table of responses and the summary report with the council's response (attached) will be made available on the cycling pages of the County Council website and a link will be sent to all respondents.
- 16 An Equalities Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment have been carried out on the draft plan. Amendments were made to the draft following these processes in the production of the final version. The assessments will be made available on request.
- 17 The approved plan will be made available as a pdf on the County Council web site, a link will be sent to all members of the working groups and consultees and a hard copy of the document will be placed in the Resource Centre for Members.

Strategic Framework

- 18 The Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham fits within the authority's broader strategic framework and is influenced by the overarching plans and ambitions for the County as set out in the Regeneration Statement, the Local Sustainable Community Strategy, the County Durham Plan and the Local Transport Plan (LTP). In particular, the delivery plan can assist the delivery of spatial, social, health and economic aspirations.
- 19 The three overarching aims of the plan are set out below, these will be delivered through implementing the policies and actions:
 - a) Plan and provide high quality cycling and walking networks that are safe and usable for more people
 - b) Manage and protect high quality cycling and walking networks to ensure quality of experience for users
 - c) Encourage and enable greater participation in cycling and walking across all demographic groups.
- 20 The SCWDP supports the continued roll out of the 20mph zones set out in DCC policy. Speed reduction has a positive impact on user experience and safety.

Delivery Programme

- 20 The previous cycling strategy has been well supported through the LTP capital programme. It is proposed that the delivery plan will continue to be supported by the LTP budgets with additional match funding sought wherever possible.
- 21 An annual work programme will be created and progress will be monitored against the action plan. The County Durham Local Access Forum and Durham City Cycling Forum will continue to act as independent critical friends to assess progress through regular updates and reports.

Main implications

- 22 The adoption of the Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan will place the council in a good position to attract additional external funding.
- 23 It is also important that we continue to work closely with colleagues across the north east region to ensure that our delivery plan is recognised in the emerging regional transport framework, which will be led by the new statutory Joint Transport Committee.

Conclusion

- 24 Cabinet are recommended to approve the Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan.

Background papers

- County Durham Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2021)
- County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy (2010-2030)
- Regeneration Statement (January 2010)
- County Durham Plan
- Council Plan (2010-2013)
- County Durham's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-18
- County Durham's Cycling Strategy 2012-15.

Other useful documents

- Cabinet Report 11 July 2012 - The County Durham Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012-15.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There is a requirement to formalise the status of the cycling network and the plan actions the authority to ensure that all newly constructed routes have the required permissive access, lease and legal agreements.

Finance

The Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham will access capital funding from the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP). External funding will also be secured when possible and required from partner organisations, NECA and through complementary projects.

Consultation

The draft was available to the public for comment for a six week consultation period. The draft was produced in collaboration with key internal and external stakeholders through the task and finish groups established as part of the review and development process.

Individual major projects and schemes will include consultation with stakeholders.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

A key focus of the delivery plan is to create opportunities across communities to participate in cycling. We will aim to make access to cycling and walking equitable across gender, social circumstance and geographic location. In order to achieve this, we need a combination of promotion, engagement and high quality infrastructure which is accessible to everyone within the community.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Strategic Cycling and Walking delivery plan.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

The plan will be delivered using existing staffing resources.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Individual project risks will be managed within the delivery of the Strategic Cycling and Walking Plan.

Procurement

Not applicable.