

## **County Council**

**20 July 2018**

### **Agenda Item 6(b) - Notice of Motion from Dr O'Kelly**

#### **Cycling - Briefing Note**

##### **Policy Background**

The Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, published in 2017, includes the ambition to double levels of cycling by 2025. The West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-26 was adopted in October 2016 in support of the Government's ambition. The Strategy was developed to create a pipeline of future schemes for delivery, to direct future investment in to walking and cycling (e.g. through local development) and to support bids for external funding. The Strategy contains a list of over 300 potential new walking and cycling routes suggested by a range of stakeholders which were ranked and prioritised for feasibility work.

##### **Partnership Working**

Cycling development will only be achieved through strong partnership working. The inaugural West Sussex Cycle Summit was held in September 2016 to officially launch the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-26. The event was organised by the West Sussex Cycle Forum and held in partnership with West Sussex County Council. A second summit was held in October 2017.

A consortium of West Sussex authorities has been successful in bidding for Department for Transport consultancy advice to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). LCWIPs are high-level strategies focusing on town-sized areas that highlight the routes where investment in new infrastructure provision is most likely to help to achieve our target. In September the consortium will begin working with consultants appointed by the Department for Transport on developing LCWIPs for Chichester, Crawley, Horsham and Worthing.

LCWIPs will help to inform and refine the South Downs National Park Authority's Cycling and Walking Strategy and the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-26. The LCWIPs are due to be published in late 2019 and, in light of this, the West Sussex Cycle Forum has taken the decision not to hold a cycling summit this year.

##### **New Infrastructure Development**

Given the partnership nature of cycling development new cycling infrastructure can be provided by the County Council, the district and borough councils, in support of the Growth Programme, by the South Downs National Park Authority, via development or other partners. The County Council has adopted target to increase the length of new/upgraded cycling infrastructure by 15% per annum up to 2021/22 (based on the 2015/17 average). This equates to 28km being installed by 2022.

During 2017/18 the County Council installed 5.6km of new/upgraded cycling infrastructure. This included:

- Billingshurst Road, Broadbridge Heath
- Arundel Road, Fontwell
- Worth Park Avenue, Crawley
- Various Public Right of Way bridleway surfacing schemes

The A259 Flansham to Climping cycleway will officially open in August completing a 4.5km missing section of National Cycle Route 2.

In respect of further development three feasibility studies were commenced in 2017/18 with a view to implementation during 2019/21 subject to funding and approvals:

- A24 North of Worthing Phase 1 – Findon Valley to Findon (upgrade existing footway to shared cycleway/footway). Ultimately this route would connect Worthing with the South Downs National Park.
- Ifield Avenue, Crawley – upgrade existing footway to shared cycleway/footway)
- Horsham Town Centre Cycling – allowing contraflow cycling in various streets and formalising cycling in the Lynd Cross area

A further three feasibility studies will commence during the current financial year which are:

- 'Midhurst Cycle Bypass' – upgrading the Jubilee Path and various Public Rights of Way footpaths on the Cowdray estate to facilitate cycling
- A24 North of Worthing Phase 2 – Findon to Washington (upgrade existing footway to shared cycleway/footway)
- Goring Seafront – extending the existing cycle path west to Sea Lane café

Consideration is also being given to expanding the length of permissive cycling on those footways and footpaths that are appropriate for such use.

The County Council has submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) for European funding to improve sections of the Downs Link and deliver a short section of the Selsey to Chichester Greenway. It is currently awaiting the outcome of the EoI. Priorities for 2019/20 feasibility work are currently being considered. These will be submitted for inclusion in the Annual Delivery Programme later this year.

## **Future Development**

There is currently a lack of national design standards for modern, high quality cycling infrastructure. In light of this, County Council officers are currently drafting local cycling design standards for future consideration and adoption.

The Cabinet Member for the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure have tasked officers with developing an initiative to promote positive cycling behaviours and greater awareness of all road and path users. Such a campaign would complement the Safe Pass initiative being rolled-out by Sussex Police and should also help to address the under-reporting of cycling-related accidents.

## **Lee Harris**

Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment