

Item 8 - Appendix A

Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group

1. *Reviewing progress on existing cycling infrastructure projects, and considering and supporting options for budgeted but not yet allocated cycling spend.*

Developing a prioritised 'pipeline' of cycling and walking schemes and opportunities, aligned with the LCWIPs for the district (and going beyond, where appropriate, for example where a hyper-local scheme is considered a priority but is not included on the local LCWIP)

The Group recommends that the District Council should:

- 1.1. Continue to support the development of LCWIPs covering the main areas of the District and related plans and strategies which prioritise walking and cycling infrastructure to achieve sustainable transport and health and wellbeing outcomes;
 - 1.2. Continue to operate a walking and cycling capital budget to fund extensions and improvements to the strategic and local walking and cycling networks. Further monies should be allocated to this budget for future years;
 - 1.3. Organise the allocation of funding to ensure that the top strategic projects and the top local projects are funded, with a smaller allowance for promoting and marketing the network;
 - 1.4. Utilise the two prioritisation tools discussed by the Group to assess initially the relative merits of individual walking and cycling projects, but to base final decisions on deliverability and geographical coverage;
 - 1.5. Focus on the practical and timely delivery of schemes, with a streamlined approval process for the existing capital budget through the Chair and Vice Chair of Environment Committee;
 - 1.6. Follow up potential projects with town and parish councils to explore the feasibility and design work required to progress schemes to delivery;
2. *Discussing and agreeing the nature of interventions and investments required to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery of the pipeline*

The Group recommends that the District Council should:

- 2.1. Ensure that the equality considerations arising from walking and cycling projects are taken into account at an early stage in the planning and design process – including consulting with representative groups (e.g. visually impaired users, access and parking for larger bikes, access issues for pedestrians with limited mobility, and affordability of e-bikes)

- 2.2. Look for the low hanging fruit/shovel ready/quick win schemes to provide initial momentum;
- 2.3. Provide and/or promote community design guidance and other tools (e.g. LCWIPs will include a cycling/walking route audit tool);
- 2.4. Continue to support policies and design guidance that prioritises walking and cycling over the use of the private car within new developments
- 2.5. Consider the evidence for varying local play and sports standards to allow new housing developments to deliver cycle circuits rather than traditional sports facilities;
- 2.6. Consider ways of utilising the canal network for walking and cycling where separated multi-user paths and LT1/20 compliant standards are not possible;
- 2.7. Work with partners to resolve/unlock land-ownership constraints;
- 2.8. Consider expanding walking and cycling budgets for future years;
- 2.9. Work with communities to explore opportunities for match funding e.g. use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), S106 agreement monies, other grant schemes

3. *Identifying ways to promote pipeline priorities to a wider audience*
(Gloucestershire County Council, Siobhan Baillie MP) to gain necessary support

The Group recommends that the District Council should:

- 3.1. Invite Chris Boardman, national commissioner for Active Travel England to visit Stroud;
- 3.2. Lobby our MP for central government funding;
- 3.3. Appoint a Cycling Mayor – a voluntary role, profile raiser, champion for inclusion, to promote cycling within the District;
- 3.4. Work with health and wellbeing and community teams to promote active travel
- 3.5. Publicise the schemes we are supporting more – “signposted by SDC as part of the walking and cycling programme”;
- 3.6. Support Bikeability to provide cycling initiatives within the District with a focus on building confidence and access to schools and businesses;
- 3.7. Develop a dedicated walking and cycling page on the Council’s website and consider newsletters – promote case studies of how we can help;
- 3.8. Produce walking and cycling maps – we currently have one which would require updating – possibly include grading of routes and segregated sections, and safer/quieter routes to schools;
- 3.9. Encourage local groups to produce videos of routes to publish on youtube etc.
- 3.10. Ensure the Council is doing the best it can to promote walking and cycling to work e.g. Bike to work scheme;
- 3.11. Consider ways that members of the Task & Finish Group can continue to promote walking and cycling in the District.

4. *Providing a point of contact for community groups to promote local schemes for consideration*

The Group recommends that the District Council should:

- 4.1.** Invite representatives from local walking and cycling groups, local accessibility groups and health & wellbeing community groups to future Council meetings on mobility matters;
 - 4.2.** Hold a session for town and parish councils to discuss cycling and walking needs and clarify the position of SDC re: funding and support;
 - 4.3.** In the longer term, consider the pros and cons for setting up and promoting a more formal application process for annual walking and cycling grants.
- 5. *Making recommendations to the Environment Committee, where any decisions resulting from any of the above functions are required.***

The Group recommends that Environment Committee should:

- 5.1.** Consider expanding walking and cycling budgets for future years to increase the funding for the delivery of strategic and local routes and to provide the resources required to raise the profile of walking and cycling within the District.
- 5.2.** Consider how the Council can continue to provide a point of contact for local community groups to promote local schemes for consideration and to discuss ways of promoting walking and cycling to a wider audience