

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>CYCLING AND WALKING TASK &amp; FINISH GROUP</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval for a proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES:</b> <b>1. to set up a Cycling and Walking Task &amp; Finish Group;</b> <b>2. to approve the draft Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	On 17 June 2021 Environment Committee considered ways of supporting the development of future cycling and walking plans and specific cycling and walking projects in the district.			
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<b>Options</b>	Option 1 - To set up a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group Option 2 – Continue without a Task & Finish Group  It is recommended that option 1 is adopted to develop a prioritised pipeline of walking and cycling schemes in order to make informed decisions on future cycling and walking investment and to provide a framework for the future delivery of cycling and walking routes.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	N/A			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Task & Finish Group Draft Terms of Reference			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The scope of a Cycling and Walking Strategy for the Stroud District was agreed at Environment Committee in June 2017 with the aim of directing an allocated £300,000 Cycling and Walking budget towards identified cycling projects through match funding and opportunities identified with other partners and stakeholders.
- 1.2 Since 2017 funding from the Cycling and Walking budget has been allocated on an ad hoc basis, focussing on projects identified in the scoping document and on identified deliverable projects. This initial budget has been all but allocated to projects throughout the District (see

section 2) however a further allocation of £300k was agreed at Council on 25 February 2021 following a request from Environment Committee in Autumn 2020.

- 1.3 Following the Department of Transport's launch of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) in 2017 and guidance on the production of local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIP), Gloucestershire County Council has embarked on a series of LCWIPs for the County, with a Stroud LCWIP now in advanced preparation. The role of these LCWIP was endorsed recently with the adoption of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2041.
- 1.4 On 17 June 2021 Environment Committee resolved to support the emerging Stroud LCWIP and work with the County Council to produce further LCWIPs for the District. The Committee also resolved to fund projects consistent with these plans.

## **2. CURRENT CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

- 2.1 *Nailsworth to Dudbridge Cycleway*: Working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire County Council, a programme of works to resurface the majority of the route and carry out bridge repairs as well as make biodiversity improvements is nearing completion. The Cycling and Walking budget has contributed approximately £140k to the project with further funding coming from CIL funding, GCC, Gloucestershire Health Services, and ERDF European funding.
- 2.2 *Cam-Dursley-Uley Greenway*: Steered by the Cam Dursley Greenway group, and working with GCC, the District Council has committed £50k toward physical works along the route, plus another £25k match funded with £25k of CIL funding to make cycle friendly highway improvements along the route.
- 2.3 *Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield Greenway*: Led by the WKC Greenway group, the District Council has committed £18k towards a detailed feasibility study being carried out by Sustrans. Once complete it is envisaged that the study will present a deliverable project.
- 2.4 *Cainscross*: £25k from the Cycling and Walking budget match funded to £25k from CIL funding has been allocated to highway improvements along Cainscross Road to be carried out by Gloucestershire County Council.
- 2.5 *Frampton on Severn*: £10k from the Cycling and Walking budget match funded to £10k from CIL funding has been allocated towards improvements to footpaths and pedestrian links in Frampton.

## **3. CYCLING AND WALKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

- 3.1 Task and finish groups provide a way for committees of this Council to investigate particular issues in more depth within a limited time period and to recommend actions back to their host committee for further consideration.
- 3.2 Members have expressed the wish to consider further the issues around improving the walking and cycling network, particularly the need to identify priority schemes and to work with partners to accelerate delivery.
- 3.3 A Task & Finish Group is therefore proposed to be set up to carry out the following functions:

- 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)
- Discussing and agreeing the nature of interventions and investments required to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery of the pipeline
- Identifying ways to promote pipeline priorities to a wider audience (Gloucestershire County Council, Siobhan Baillie MP) to gain necessary support
- Providing a point of contact for community groups to promote local schemes for consideration
- Reviewing progress on existing cycling infrastructure projects, and considering and supporting options for budgeted but not yet allocated cycling spend
- Making recommendations to the Environment Committee, where any decisions resulting from any of the above functions are required.

## **4. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The setting up of a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will provide the opportunity to develop a robust framework to focus future investment and prioritisation of cycling and walking routes within the District and an opportunity to discuss with partners how to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee resolves to set up a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group with terms of reference as set out in Appendix A.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

This report is to recommend a Task & Finish Group and set to up terms of reference, therefore no financial implications associated with this report.

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### **5.2 Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

One Legal

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### **5.3 Equality Implications**

An EqIA is not required because this report does not establish specific policies or procedures. However, the proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will make recommendations to a future meeting of Environment Committee and that report may be assessed for any equality implications.

### **5.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category as the report does not establish specific policies or procedures. However, the proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will make recommendations to a future meeting of Environment Committee and that report may be assessed for any environmental implications.

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