

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Norfolk Cycling and Walking Action Plan
Date of meeting:	19 April 2017
Responsible Officer:	Tracy Jessop, Assistant Director, Highways and Transport

Strategic impact

The Norfolk Cycling and Walking Action Plan will further the Council's ambition to promote health and well-being through good infrastructure. It will ensure that people have access to sustainable transport choices with a recognition that cycling and walking play a key role in meeting the Council's overall transport objectives.

Executive summary

The Department of Transport is encouraging local authority Highway Teams to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans as part of the government's ambition to create a walking and cycling nation. There are significant amounts of funding available to support Cycling and Walking and to maximise their opportunity to benefit from these initiatives, Norfolk County Council has taken the following steps:

1. Adopted a Norfolk Cycling and Walking Action Plan focussing on modal shift and sustainable transport to reduce the carbon footprint of travellers
2. Appointed a Cycling and Walking Champion – Cllr Hilary Cox
3. Set up a Cycling and Walking Working Group with representation from Public Health, Economic Development, Environment, Highways and others such as Active Norfolk and Children's Services as needed.
4. Successfully applied for funding from the DFT Sustainable Development Fund for the Pushing Ahead project amounting to £1,488,000 for the next three years. This project is managed by a partnership lead by the Environment Team with Transport and Highways as well as Active Norfolk and Public Health.

The next step is to join up these initiatives with local plans, particularly the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan or Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Norfolk.

Recommendations:

That the Norfolk LAF supports the above steps and agrees to work with NCC to integrate the Local Walking and Cycling Action Plan with the NAIP.

1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1. Norfolk County Council is working with the Department of Transport on Sustainable Transport and Cycling and Walking initiatives. They would like to invite the Norfolk Local Access Forum to work with the NCC Cycling and Walking Working Group to achieve the best outcomes for Norfolk from integration of the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (or Norfolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan) and the Local Walking and Cycling Action Plan. This includes establishing the distinctive features of each plan as well as cross over; advising on content of the plans and their relationship to local plans; assisting with delivery and monitoring of the plans as appropriate.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. Appendix A Environment, Development and Transport Committee Report of 17 March 2017
Appendix B Norfolk Cycling and Walking Action Plan
Appendix C Pushing Ahead funding application

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. Financial implications were outlined in Appendix A of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee Report of 17th March 2017 when the Norfolk Cycling and Walking Action Plan was adopted. This notes that there is significant potential to bid for funding resource from the Department of Transport which has so far has only required member and officer time and £12,000 for consultancy to secure £1.9m. The Cycling and Walking Action Plan enables the strongest possible case to be made for further funding bids, for example through the provision of sustainable transport associated with new housing developments. No additional costs were identified although officer and member time will be required to develop the plan and monitor its implementation.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. NA

5. Background

- 5.1. The current government's ambition is to create a walking and cycling nation. Their long term goal up to 2040 is that walking and cycling should be a normal part of everyday life, and the natural choice for shorter journeys such as the commute to school, college, work or leisure trips. They want to create a nation where cycling and walking are the norm for all people whatever their background or characteristics. To make their goal a reality, they want everyone in the country to have access to safe, attractive routes for cycling and walking and they are calling that goal our cycling and walking ambition. Their ambition for England is:
"We want to make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey"

The Department of Transport Cycling and Walking Investment Action plan shortly to be published will be the first step of a long-term transformative change process. It will set out their objectives that they are working towards to meet their ambition, the financial resources available to meet their objectives, their action plan for delivering their objectives and the governance arrangements that will review this delivery. The objectives and target they have set to measure progress towards their 2040 ambition are to:

- ☐ Double cycling, where cycling activity is measured as the estimated total number of bicycle stages made each year, from 0.8 billion stages in 2013 to 1.6 billion stages in 2025;
- ☐ Reverse the decline in walking activity, measured as the total number of walking stages per person per year;
- ☐ Reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured on England's roads, measured as the number of fatalities and serious injuries per billion miles cycled, each year;
- ☐ Increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school.

DEFRA – the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – is responsible for ensuring that Highway Authorities undertake their statutory duties to record and keep public rights of way open including the publication of a 10 year Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

Officer name : Andrew Hutcheson

Tel No. : 01603 222767

Email address : Andrew.hutcheson@norfolk.gov.uk



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