

COUNTY COUNCIL: 19TH JULY 2022

d) Motion from Councillor Ros Hathorn

Amendment proposed by Councillor Mark Goldsack

Additions in bold.

This Council notes that active travel infrastructure plays a vital role in:

- connecting communities
- providing new opportunities for individuals in terms of employment, education, caring and leisure
- encouraging a culture of active travel which can lower childhood obesity levels and improve adult health
- providing new choices for those who do not have a car including giving greater independence to those under the age of 17
- helping the county reach its net zero target of 2045

The Council acknowledges that:

- as more active travel infrastructure is built it will have growing maintenance costs.
- Government Department for Transport (DfT) funding is provided based on the DfT Highway Maintenance funding formula. Local authorities make the decisions on where to spend this money across the whole network, In Cambridgeshire these decisions are based on the condition of the asset and the adopted Highway Operational Standards.
- the DfT does not make specific reference to the significance of active travel or include it explicitly within their funding formula, putting pressure on local authorities to accommodate a growing network of new generation active travel routes.
- Local Authority maintenance budgets are under increasing pressure to balance the numerous challenges across a changing network
- there is no commitment to or indication that the government will make an explicit inclusion of active travel infrastructure in the DfT maintenance block funding formula in the future.

- active travel needs new funding models which will both maintain the active travel infrastructure in place and support the delivery of really good new schemes.
- we have high active travel ambitions, and policy to support its delivery, it is essential that we use the planning process to its best effect to deliver on our ambitions across the county.
- consideration of the maintenance requirements for active travel infrastructure is currently being reviewed as part of the Highways Operational Standards review. This motion seeks to support not undermine that work by demonstrating that funding to support active travel is supported by the full council.
- some schemes, however, will be finalised before that review is complete.

This Council therefore:

- asks the Highways and Transport service to prioritise developing active travel specific maintenance measures within the Highways Operational Standards (HOS) and explore ways in which ongoing maintenance requirements can be removed as a barrier to good scheme design.
- asks the Highways and Transport service to undertake a review of the highway hierarchy used to deliver the asset management maintenance programme to ensure it reflects active travel growth and the ambitions of the council **but only**
 - a) **where this activity does nothing to potentially harm the Asset Management Strategy funding approach, as any amendment to this could impact negatively the funding received for Cambridgeshire County Council.**
 - b) **where areas of little or no active travel exists, such as rural villages with limited if any bus or rail service, these residents are not negatively impacted by a disproportional spend on county highway maintenance in areas that can benefit from Active Travel campaigns.**
- supports Active Travel England's talk of a 'new golden age of walking and cycling' [Active Travel England update](#), and asks the Chief Executive to write to the Department of Transport and Active Travel England to:
 - o outline the Council's concerns that councils' will not be able to deliver the active travel infrastructure necessary for this without a commitment from government to fund the maintenance of an expanding network of ambitious new generation cycleways and footways;
 - o lobby for explicit inclusion of active travel infrastructure in the DfT maintenance block funding formula,

- lobby for active travel to be included as a priority within the Highway Maintenance Incentive fund.
- agrees to fully utilise the planning process to secure the highest quality developer infrastructure to meet the ambitions and aspirations of Cambridgeshire and agrees to strive for a more ambitious approach to schemes being developed currently so it can deliver better active travel schemes earlier.