

Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire

To: Highways and Transport Committee

Meeting Date: 8 March 2022

From: Steve Cox, Executive Director Place and Economy

Electoral division(s): ALL

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To update the Committee on the development of an Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire.

Recommendation: Members are requested to:

- a) Comment on and endorse the draft Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire and high-level action plan in Appendix 2 for further stakeholder engagement.
- b) Approve the proposed stakeholder engagement approach as outlined in the report

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Member contacts:

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1 Background

- 1.1 A previous update on the Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire was presented to this committee on 7th December 2021 introducing the purpose of the strategy and the programme. As programmed, the draft strategy, see Appendix 2, is being presented to this committee for comment and to endorse for further stakeholder engagement.

2 Transport Strategy Development

- 2.1 Prior to 2017, the County Council produced an LTP (Local Transport Plan) in its role as Local Transport Authority. Since 2017, the responsibility for production of the LTP has passed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), and the Council continues to work with the CPCA to support this workstream. The CPCA are currently undergoing a refresh of the LTP, now referred to as the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).
- 2.2 The Council, as the Local Highway Authority, continues to produce transport strategy documents which are aligned with the emerging vision and objectives of the CPCA's emerging LTCP (as shown in Appendix 1), and reflect the Council's investment priorities and future aspirations. The Active Travel Strategy builds on the overarching policy position set by the LTCP, setting the detail on how it will be achieved, linking all relevant national and local policy and guidance in one reference document. This supports the development of and future investment in a pipeline of active travel schemes that will help deliver the vision for Cambridgeshire. The strategy will also support and complement district Local Plans.
- 2.3 The Transport Strategy team are also working on district-based transport strategies for Fenland and Huntingdonshire, which are being discussed under agenda item 9 of this meeting. The production of all strategies is being co-ordinated and will ensure that all opportunities are taken to align this work, which may include joint public engagement events and sharing of data and information.

3 A draft Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire

- 3.1 Since the update to Committee in December 2021, the draft Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire and high-level action plan have been developed with officer and key stakeholder input through the officer working group, including multiple County Council teams, GCP, district council officers and Cambridge University (Transport Advisor). The vision and objectives of the strategy are formed around four key themes for active travel, and were developed from officer and stakeholder engagement, including a number of user group focus sessions around walking, cycling, equality and diversity, and equestrian, see Appendix 3 for a list of invited user groups.
- 3.2 The themes Embrace, Enhance, Expand and Encourage encapsulate the four key areas for change needed to ensure active travel in Cambridgeshire becomes the 'go to' travel option for local journeys, and the overall vision for active travel and objectives of the strategy are achieved.
- 3.3 The policies within the strategy all work towards the vision and objectives of the strategy, structured around the 4E themes. The strategy will provide a robust evidence and policy base for our local planning authorities, Transport Assessment, Highway, and Project

Delivery teams within the County Council, and other partners to ensure active travel is prioritised and considered in all future planning decisions and transport projects. Developers will need to refer to this strategy and ensure the relevant policies are considered and adhered to through the planning process and through scheme development.

- 3.4 A high-level action plan is included that builds upon the strategy, identifying actions to be undertaken or investigated to support its implementation. This has been written to ensure improvements can be made to both existing and new active travel provision without the sole reliance on costly schemes. However, a key action within the Plan is to create a more detailed programme of active travel schemes that will be developed alongside further stakeholder engagement. Schemes will be assessed against the vision and objectives of the strategy to ensure they represent the high-level vision for a connected, quality active travel network across Cambridgeshire.
- 3.5 The action plan is not currently funded, and section 10 of the strategy ‘Funding and Implementation’ explains the challenges involved in the delivery of the strategy and the opportunities for funding that can be sought, this could include developer funding, CPCA funding and other bidding opportunities.
- 3.6 It should be noted that increase in modal shift to active travel modes will play a significant part in the wider health and wellbeing of Cambridgeshire residents, and the wider environmental challenges faced. Most importantly, it will be a vital role in helping to achieve net zero carbon by 2045, as agreed in the updated CCC Climate Change and Environment Strategy, and the priorities set out in the draft Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Strategy. To acknowledge the ongoing commitment of the Council to achieve these targets and the important role of improvements in active travel, the Council is recruiting an Active Travel Lead officer role within the Transport Strategy team.

Future programme

- 3.7 The proposed programme for completion of the strategy is set out in Table 1 and we will ensure that all opportunities are taken to align this work with the development of the two district-based transport strategies.

Table 1 Programme for the continued development of the Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire

Date	Activity
Summer 2022	Stakeholder engagement on the draft strategy and developing a list of scheme proposals
Autumn 2022	Analysis of engagement and proposed schemes. Development of detailed Action Plan/programme of active travel schemes
Autumn/Winter 2022	Public consultation on draft Active Travel Strategy and detailed action plan
Early 2023	Final Strategy and Action Plan to Highway & Transport Committee for adoption

Public and stakeholder engagement

- 3.8 Subject to the views of H&T Committee, the next phase of work will focus on stakeholder engagement to inform the development of a detailed action plan of schemes for the strategy. The engagement activities will seek views on the draft strategy as well as a call for schemes to be considered, which will be assessed against the relevant strategy objectives and high-level vision for a connected, quality active travel network across Cambridgeshire.
- 3.9 The draft strategy and action plan will be subject to public consultation late in 2022, and final adoption is now aimed for early 2023.

4 Alignment with corporate priorities

4.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Transport strategy development is informed by public engagement and is guided by the objectives and priorities of the council.
- The LTP Integrated Transport Block generally delivers small or medium sized schemes that have been developed to address local issues as part of transport strategies informed by engagement with local communities and local councillors.

4.2 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Transport strategy documents typically identify policies and interventions that seek to improve accessibility and connectivity, and minimise the negative impacts of travel and transport on communities and the environment.

4.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Active travel interventions can help improve children's health and wellbeing, in particular the strategy includes safer active routes to school.

4.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Transport strategy documents typically identify policies and interventions that seek to improve accessibility and connectivity, and minimise the negative impacts of travel and transport on communities and the environment.
- The active travel strategy focuses on creating a well-connected active travel network, that is safe for all users, and contributes to the wider decarbonisation agenda.

4.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

There are no significant implications for this priority.

5 Significant Implications

5.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Funding for the development of the active travel strategy will come from the Integrated Transport Block Strategy Development budget.

5.2 Procurement / Contractual / Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

5.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is appended to this paper.

5.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The transport strategy work will involve stakeholder engagement and public consultation in line with the programme set out in the paper. This process is essential to the development of the strategy and action plan of schemes.
- The high-level action plan will require further communications input which will be considered on an action-by-action basis.

5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- During the next phase of engagement, County, District, Town or Parish Councillors will be offered the opportunity to feed into the detailed action plan as key stakeholders and through wider consultation on the draft strategy.

5.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Public health is identified as being at the core of the vision set out by the CPCA for their refreshed Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2.
- "*Health: improved health and wellbeing enabled through better connectivity, greater access to healthier journeys and lifestyles and delivering stronger, fairer and more resilient communities*" is one of the six objectives of the refresh of the CPCA's Local Transport Plan, which are aligned with the objectives of the Council's transport strategies.
- Active travel contributes directly to public health issues through levels of activity/inactivity, air pollution and subsequent health implications. The strategy will positively contribute to encouraging Cambridgeshire residents to be more active, and

through mode shift away from use of private car will positively impact on levels of air pollution.

- Policies within the active travel strategy refer to the emerging Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

5.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

5.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: There are no implications in this area.

5.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Status: Positive

Explanation: “*Climate: Successfully and fairly reducing emissions to Net Zero by 2050*”, is one of the six objectives of the refresh of the CPCA’s Local Transport Plan, which are proposed to be adopted as the objectives of the Council’s transport strategies. The objectives of the draft Active Travel Strategy also commit to meeting Cambridgeshire County Council’s carbon targets by reaching net zero by 2045.

5.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: Any direct implications arising from strategy or scheme development work will be addressed in future reports to this Committee. However, it is also noted that “*Environment: Protecting and improving our green spaces and improving nature with a well-planned and good quality transport network*” is one of the six objectives of the refresh of the CPCA’s Local Transport Plan, which are proposed to be adopted as the objectives of the Council’s transport strategies and are reflected in the draft objectives for the two transport strategies.

5.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: There are no implications in this area.

5.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Status: Neutral

Explanation: There are no implications in this area.

5.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Status: Positive

Explanation: The vision of the draft Active Travel Strategy is to get more people using active travel modes for their local journeys, reducing use of private car. The objectives and policies within the strategy work to achieve this aim, and if successful will contribute to a positive impact on air pollution, but needs commitment to interventions that will enable or drive significant changes in travel behaviour if they are to be most effective.

5.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Status: Positive

Explanation: “*Climate: Successfully and fairly reducing emissions to Net Zero by 2050*”, is one of the six objectives of the refresh of the CPCA’s Local Transport Plan, which are proposed to be adopted as the objectives of the Council’s transport strategies. It is

expected that the Council's strategy work will reflect this objective in the interventions that they propose, including consideration of the resilience of those interventions in the context of climate change.

6 Source documents

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan: <https://mk0cpcamainsitehdbtm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/transport/local-transport-plan/LTP.pdf>
- Active Travel Strategy paper to Highways and Transport Committee 7th December 2021 [Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)
- Future Transport Priorities paper to Highways and transport Committee 7th December 2021 [Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)
- Updated CCC Climate Change and Environment Strategy – paper to Full Council 9th February 2022

Implications sign off

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood

Have the procurement / contractual / Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Elsa Evans

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes

Name of Officer: Sarah Silk

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jeremy Smith

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes

Name of Officer: Iain Green

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer? Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

Appendix 1 Refreshed Vision and Objectives from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LTCP

Refreshed Vision



A transport network which secures a future in which the region and its people can thrive.

It must put improved public health at its core, it must help create a fairer society, it must respond to climate change targets, it must protect our environment and clean up our air, and it must be the backbone of sustainable economic growth in which everyone can prosper.

And it must bring a region of cities, market towns and very rural areas closer together.

It will be achieved by investing in a properly joined-up, net zero carbon transport system, which is high quality, reliable, convenient, affordable, and accessible to everyone. Better, cleaner public transport will reduce private car use, and more cycling and walking will support both healthier lives and a greener region. Comprehensive connectivity, including digital improvements, will support a sustainable future for our region's nationally important and innovative economy.



Refreshed Objectives



Productivity

Giving both employers and people the means to achieve more of their potential, making them more efficient and more innovative to create more prosperity



Connectivity

People and communities are brought closer together, giving more opportunities for work, education, leisure and pleasure



Climate

Successfully and fairly reducing emissions to Net Zero by 2050



Environment

Protecting and improving our green spaces and improving nature with a well-planned and good quality transport network.



Health

Improved health and wellbeing enabled through better connectivity, greater access to healthier journeys and lifestyles and delivering stronger, fairer, more resilient communities.



Safety

To prevent all harm by reducing risk and enabling people to use the transport system with confidence.

Appendix 2: Draft Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire

Appendix 3: User groups

- Living Streets
- Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum
- Cambridgeshire Ramblers' Association
- CTC Cambridge (Cycling UK)
- Camcycle
- Sustrans
- Zedify/Outspoken
- Women on Wheels
- British Horse Society
- Swavesey & District Bridleways Association
- Camsight
- Age UK
- Disability Cambridgeshire
- Cambridge Deaf Association
- Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Reference Group
- SCOPE
- Care Network