
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

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[W111]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To approve the East Cambridgeshire Cycling and Walking Strategy document.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Approve the draft East Cambridgeshire Cycling and Walking Strategy document, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, with any minor editorial or presentation improvements delegated to officers, in consultation with the Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A public consultation was held in 2020 asking people to identify new cycling and walking routes which the Council could prioritise to complete gaps in the network, especially those that will encourage more local walking and cycling journeys to access places of education, employment, health care, public transport and essential services.

3.2 Via the consultation questionnaire, the Council also asked residents where they would like to walk or cycle to but cannot because the path is in disrepair, there is street clutter obstructing the footpaths or there is insufficient street lighting, or because there is not safe crossing point in the route.

3.3 1,186 questionnaire responses relating to cycle routes were received, 44 emails containing comments were received via the buscyclewalk@eastcambs.gov.uk email address and a number of cycling related comments were received by the Council via the Climate Change Ideas Forum.

3.4 866 questionnaire responses relating to walking routes were received, 44 emails containing comments were received via the buscyclewalk@eastcambs.gov.uk email address and a number of walking

related comments were received by the Council via the Climate Change Ideas Forum.

- 3.5 The East Cambridgeshire Cycling and Walking Strategy document (Appendix 1) contains maps that illustrate the consultation responses and the demand for new routes and services.
- 3.6 A list of priority routes has been developed so that the Council has a set of schemes that are ready to submit when funding becomes available. The list can be found on page 8 of the draft document at Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The Council has prioritised routes that:
- Link villages to market towns in the district.
 - Link villages with no public transport to larger villages where they can access services.
 - Provide links to public transport to enable buses and trains to replace the car as an alternative for longer journeys.
 - Can be linked to other existing or proposed paths to lengthen the route available. For example, the Greenways being created by the Greater Cambridge Partnership will provide links from Bottisham and the Swaffhams into Cambridge.
 - Are included in the Cambridgeshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) as the Government has indicated that it will only fund cycling and walking infrastructure that is included in LCWIP'.
- 3.8 In addition to providing new cycling and walking paths/routes, it is important to ensure existing infrastructure for cycling and walking is fit for purpose and free from clutter.
- 3.9 The District Council has recently forwarded the consultation responses which relate to disrepair or other maintenance issues to Parish Councils in order to compile an up to date list of routes where there are issues with existing paths.
- 3.10 This list has been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council, with a request that these be addressed as soon as possible.
- 3.11 Lack of safe crossing points is a barrier to cycling and walking and the District Council believes that crossing points should be considered an integral part of a footpath/ cycle path and that they should be delivered together, not as separate projects.
- 3.12 There are several areas where a crossing is required in East Cambridgeshire, including at the A10 Witchford Road/BP roundabout and the A142 at Stuntney. The District Council will continue to work with partners to ensure delivery of safe crossing points.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Delivery of the proposed cycling and walking network is reliant on the availability of external funding and the Council will need to work with partner organisations to secure funding and deliver new cycling and walking infrastructure.
- 4.2 To progress this, the Council has identified five cycling routes and has commissioned Sustrans, the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle, to produce feasibility studies for these routes.
- 4.3 The studies will develop early work to understand possible costs and benefits of potential interventions and ensure proposals clearly align with national policy. This information will be used to seek funding from external sources to enable delivery of the schemes.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.
- 5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Draft East Cambridgeshire Cycling and Walking Strategy document.

Background Documents

None

Location

The Grange,
Ely

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