

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 March 2016
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval to complete and publish the Council's Cycling Strategy

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2021 be approved and published.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council recognises the many benefits to be gained by travelling more sustainably. By altering travel choices the Council can improve health and fitness while reducing effects on the environment. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 also places a statutory obligation on the Council to act in a sustainable way.
- 3.2. In 2010, the Scottish Government launched the Cycle Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) which they updated in 2013. The overall objective of CAPS is to increase cycling whereby 10% of everyday journeys will be made by bike. One of the main CAPS actions is to develop a strategic approach to supporting functional cycling for each local authority area. The main outcome of this action is for cycling strategies to be in place in all local authority areas. The South Lanarkshire Cycling Strategy will fulfil this CAPS Action.
- 3.3. The Council's Local Transport Strategy 2013 to 2023 contains a number of cycle policies and actions. The policies relate to contributing to the national vision outlined above and encouraging children to travel actively on school journeys. The actions will seek to further extend the cycle network in South Lanarkshire and increase the number of school travel plans to encourage cycling on school journeys. The Cycling Strategy will aim to build on these policies and actions to promote and encourage cycling in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.4. In 2013, Cycling Scotland published their National Assessment of Local Authority Cycling Policy. It stated that South Lanarkshire has made significant progress since the 2008 assessment showing improvement in certain areas. They also identified key areas for focus and development.

- 3.5. In recent years, excellent progress has been achieved in delivering improvements to cycling infrastructure. This progress has been underpinned by informal but effective partnership working on a series of individual projects. These projects have demonstrated the benefits of partners pooling limited resources and the formation of the cycling partnership has further strengthened this ethos of partnership working.

4. Cycle Strategy Publication

- 4.1. The draft Cycling Strategy was considered by the representatives of the Council's Cycling Partnership in March 2015.
- 4.2. Further from this, a second phase of consultation was undertaken which invited comments from residents and other stakeholders within South Lanarkshire. This was completed in July 2015. All comments and suggestions received were considered and where appropriate are incorporated into the Strategy.
- 4.3. The draft Cycling Strategy has been finalised and consists of the following chapters:-
- ◆ Introduction
The introduction outlines the Council's position with regard to cycling policy and the reasons for the Cycling Strategy.
 - ◆ Existing Situation
This explains what the Council has achieved to date in terms of infrastructure, provision of routes and cycle training. Also included are statistics for South Lanarkshire and comparisons to a Scottish average.
 - ◆ Policy Context
This section links key strategies and documents such as the Council Plan and the Local Transport Strategy to the regional and national policy documents as well as other strategies linked to sustainability. These relate to improving the health and wellbeing by facilitating and encouraging active travel, through the development of attractive, safe and convenient cycling networks.
 - ◆ Vision, Objectives and Themes
A cycling strategy vision statement has been developed and links to the Local Transport Strategy Policies and Aims have been made. Also the themes within the Strategy are:-
 - ◆ Objectives
 - ◆ Cycle infrastructure;
 - ◆ Promotion of cycling;
 - ◆ Cycle training.
 - ◆ Funding and Delivery
This contains an action plan which sets out potential routes with estimated delivery costs for infrastructure projects. This will enable the preparation of bids for funding from our partners and external sources. It will also identify risks associated with delivery.
 - ◆ Evaluation
The evaluation will explain how we will measure the effectiveness of the Strategy both in increasing the number of cycle journeys, in line with national targets, and in increasing the population's confidence and desire to cycle.

4.4. It is anticipated that the strategy will be published by the end of March 2016.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this paper and the delivery of the Cycling Strategy will be resourced by existing officers.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. Funding sources for the delivery of the actions arising from the Cycling Strategy will not be set out within the Strategy as this will change year on year through the development of the Council's budget. It is clear that the extent to which policies and actions can be successfully pursued and actions fulfilled is directly linked to the levels of funding available.

6.2. External sources of funding and partnership working will be critical to the Council being able to deliver much of the Cycling Strategy. Many of these funding sources are not guaranteed funding streams and often rely on the Council successfully bidding for and match funding specific projects.

6.3. Sources from which the Council has been successful in gaining funding from recently include the Scottish Government, Sustrans, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Transport Scotland. We will continue to work in partnership with these bodies to deliver mutually beneficial policies and projects and to secure essential funding.

7. Other Implications

7.1. Cycling is a key element of encouraging sustainable travel, therefore, the Cycling Strategy will contribute towards the Council's Sustainability Strategy objectives.

7.2. There are no other implications associated with the Strategy.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. The Cycling Strategy sits below the Local Transport Strategy which has been assessed in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005 for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Council plans, programmes, policies and strategies and for which an Environmental Report has been produced. Consequently the Council is of the opinion that the proposed Cycling Strategy is exempt from Strategic Environmental Assessment as its implementation will have no effect in relation to the environment. This is in accordance with Sections 5 (4) and 7 (1) of the 2005 Act. The Council applied the criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Act when considering their opinion.

8.2. All the necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

10 February 2016

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Improve the quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills
- ◆ Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ Improve the road network
- ◆ Develop a sustainable Council and communities
- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Improve community safety
- ◆ Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working and engagement
- ◆ Provide vision and strategic direction
- ◆ Achieve efficient and effective use of resources

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council's Local Transport Strategy
- ◆ Council Plan "Connect"
- ◆ Resource Plan
- ◆ Single Outcome Agreement
- ◆ Core Paths Plan
- ◆ Cycle Action Plan for Scotland 2013
- ◆ Cycling Scotland 2013 National Assessment of Local Authority Cycling Policy
- ◆ Draft Cycling Strategy 2016 to 2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information please

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