

COMMITTEE: PLANNING
DATE: 12 July 2011
SUBJECT: Cycling Strategy
REPORT OF: Senior Head of Development & Environment

Ward(s): All

Purpose: To seek Members' views on the report before being considered by Cabinet on 13 July 2011

Contact: Lisa Rawlinson, Principal Implementation Officer,
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Recommendations: Members are asked for their views on the attached report which will be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 13 July 2011

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a covering report to introduce the Cabinet report attached. The Cabinet Report is self explanatory and includes a discussion under the usual implication headings so will not be repeated here.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Report seeks approval of the draft Cycling Strategy for the Town and authority to consult with stakeholders. Planning Committee Members are asked to consider the attached report and any comments will be considered and reported orally to Cabinet when they meet on 13 July.

Jefferson Collard
Senior Head of Development & Environment

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were:

Cabinet Report dated 14 July 2010
Cabinet Report 15 December 2010
A Healthy Cycling Plan for Eastbourne (Sustrans – 1994)
East Sussex County Council - Cycling Strategy (2009)

COMMITTEE **CABINET**
DATE **13 July 2011**
SUBJECT **Cycling Strategy**

REPORT OF **Senior Head of Development & Environment**

Ward(s) All

Purpose For Cabinet to approve the draft Eastbourne Cycling Strategy for consultation with stakeholders

Contact Lisa Rawlinson, Principal Implementation Officer,
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Recommendations 1. That Cabinet approve the draft Cycling Strategy for consultation with stakeholders between September and November

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 14 July 2010, Cabinet resolved that the Council should work in partnership with East Sussex County Council to develop a Cycling Strategy for the Town and that it should continue to work with local groups to ensure that a town wide cycle network is developed and implemented.
- 1.2 The Strategy which will run until 2027, will replace 'A Healthy Cycling Plan for Eastbourne' which was produced by Sustrans in 1994 and will be aligned with the County Council's Cycling Strategy which was published in March 2009.
- 1.3 The Strategy will also contribute to the Council's wider objectives to reduce traffic congestion and support low carbon initiatives which will also improve air quality, health and accessibility. The Strategy also fits in with a priority of 'Pride of Place', the East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy, which is to encourage the use of alternative methods of transport to reduce the number of car journeys made in Eastbourne and specifically to improve facilities for cycling and walking.

2.0 Draft Cycling Strategy for Eastbourne

- 2.1 The principal objective of the new Cycling Strategy is to identify a Borough-wide network of potential cycling routes which can then be provided as funding becomes available through a number of avenues including the planning process from developer contributions. This proposed network will build on both the

existing cycle routes within the Borough as well as the proposed new routes between the railway station and the eastern side of the town (the Horsey Sewer Cycle Route) and the western Seafront Cycle Route (along King Edwards Parade). The Strategy will also identify ways in which cycling can be encouraged and promoted within the Town.

- 2.2 To identify an appropriate network of cycle routes, a Working Group was established in October 2010, comprising representatives from the Council's Highways Department, East Sussex County Council's Transport Policy Team, Bespoke (Eastbourne's cycling campaign group) and the Community Environment Partnership for Eastbourne (CEPE).
- 2.3 Following a series of Working Group meetings, a provisional network of proposed cycle routes has been identified that builds on the existing provision and provides linkages between principal employment, housing, recreational and tourist locations.
- 2.4 The draft Strategy which is attached at Appendix 1, includes a Plan of the proposed network of utility and recreational routes. The routes are prioritised in order to ensure those with the greatest potential to be delivered and those that would benefit the greatest number of people are taken forward for feasibility studies at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.5 In January and February of this year, a detailed audit of cycle parking infrastructure across the town was carried out by the County Council. The audit identified the quality, security and usage of the existing facilities to determine the potential for improvements to be made at a wide range of publicly and privately owned sites, details of which are also included in the Strategy.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 East Sussex County Council in partnership with Eastbourne Borough Council has carried out consultation on the two proposed cycle routes along Horsey Sewer and King Edwards Parade. These achieved 90% and 80% support respectively. Further consultation was carried out on the King Edwards Parade route and the results are still being analysed. As part of these consultations, attendees were also invited to give their opinions about where improvements to cycling infrastructure across the Borough should be made. This information has been incorporated into the draft Strategy and has helped inform the provisional network of the proposed new cycle routes.
- 3.2 There was a further opportunity for the public to give their views on cycling infrastructure at the Eastbourne Cycling Festival that took place in May and the comments received at the event have also been taken into consideration in the drafting of the Strategy.

- 3.3 It is now proposed to consult with key stakeholders on the draft Strategy for a 12 week period between September and November. Consultees will include cycling campaign groups such as Bespoke and Sustrans and other key organisations and groups including Sussex Police, East Sussex Disability Association, Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce and Eastbourne Hospitality Association. A full list of the stakeholders is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.4 Consultation with the community will take place as each route is tested for feasibility and plans are worked up in more detail, at which time there will be more certainty associated with the provision of new routes.
- 3.5 The consultation exercise will make it clear to stakeholders that the cycle routes proposed in the Strategy are not definitive routes and that they are subject to confirmation of feasibility and the securing of funding. For example, were it to be considered desirable to implement a cycle route in an area where byelaws currently prohibit cycling, such as on the seafront, it would be necessary to amend or revoke those byelaws. This could be time consuming, particularly if Central Government approval is required.
- 3.6 At the end of the stakeholder consultation period the representations and feedback received will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final version of the Cycling Strategy which will be presented to Cabinet later this year for formal adoption.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 East Sussex County Council has prepared the Strategy on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council at no cost to Eastbourne.
- 4.2 The funding of the new routes proposed in the Strategy will be subject to future bids. However it is expected much will be funded from developer contributions.
- 4.3 A total budget of £50,000 has already been set aside. A sum of £15,000 was used for the design and safety audit of the western Seafront cycle route scheme and community consultation. The remaining £35,000 capital funding will be used for the feasibility design work on the priority routes identified in the Strategy to aid their implementation.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The development of a Cycling Strategy to identify a network of cycle routes across the town is key to increasing the number of cycle trips made and will contribute towards the Council's objectives of becoming a low carbon town, reducing congestion

and improving air quality and accessibility.

- 5.2 A further report will be submitted to a future Cabinet on the results of the consultation process and for adoption of the Cycling Strategy.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report dated 14 July 2010

Cabinet Report 15 December 2010

A Healthy Cycling Plan for Eastbourne (Sustrans – 1994)

East Sussex County Council - Cycling Strategy (2009)

To inspect or obtain copies of the background paper, please refer to the contact officer listed above.

APPENDIX 1 – Draft Cycling Strategy for Eastbourne

APPENDIX 2

List of Stakeholders to be consulted on Draft Cycling Strategy

Cycling/Campaign Groups:

Bespoke
Sustrans
Cyclist Touring Club (CTC) Wealden & South Downs
Cycle Seahaven
Bexill Wheelers
Campaign for Better Transport

Other Key Organisations/Groups:

Community Environment Partnership Eastbourne (CEPE)
South Downs National Park (SDNP)
Wealden District Council
East Sussex County Council - Rights of Way (ESCC)
East Sussex Fire & Rescue (ESFRS)
Sussex Police
South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMBS)
Highways Agency
Southern Railways
Network Rail
East Sussex Disability Association
East Sussex Downs and Weald NHS PCT (or current equivalent)
Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce
Eastbourne Hospitality Association
University of Brighton

Other tertiary and secondary education establishments

Federation of Small Businesses

Fields in Trust (National Playing Fields Association)