

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

**Report to:-** Carlisle City Council

**Date of Meeting:-** 4th November 2008

**Agenda Item No:-**

---

**Public**

---

---

**Title:-** RESIDENTS PETITION - IN SUPPORT OF CONNECT 2  
CYCLE SCHEME

**Report of:-** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Report reference:-** CS90/08

---

**Summary:-** This report presents a petition received from 800 residents requesting that the City Council do everything in its power to promote the Carlisle Connect 2 Cycle Scheme. The report goes on to outline the actions already taken and seeks endorsement for this scheme to continue to be supported.

**Recommendation:-** It is recommended that members receive the petition and endorse the actions that City and County Council Officers are taking to progress this scheme.

**Contact Officer:** Keith Poole 8527

**Ext:** 8527

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None**

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

- 1.1 A petition has been received, signed by over 800 residents, asking the City Council to do everything in its power to secure funds to implement the Carlisle Connect 2 Cycle Scheme. A sample page from the petition is attached for information. A copy of this petition has been forwarded to the County Council and will be considered by the Local Committee at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November,
- 1.2 Members will recall that the City Council, working in conjunction with the County Council, submitted a bid last year to Sustrans (the national cycling charity) for funds to help implement cycle route through Carlisle from Currock to Kingstown. Sustrans were hoping to win funding of £50m from the Big Lottery fund to implement over 70 cycling schemes throughout the County and the bid from Carlisle was accepted as one of these national schemes. The Sustrans bid for Big Lottery funds was successful and the Carlisle bid was accepted and £940,000 was provisionally allocated to Carlisle by Sustrans.
- 1.3 At the present time joint officer discussions have been taking place with City Council, County Council and Sustrans to finalise the details of the Connect 2 scheme for Carlisle, Sustrans are under pressure from the Big Lottery to progress all the 70 national schemes over a period of 5 years and each of the successful bidders is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Sustrans. This memorandum will set out the details of the scheme to be implemented and the conditions which Sustrans and the Big Lottery wish to impose. It is hoped that the memorandum can be signed by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008, and both the City Council and the County Council would be joint signatories to this agreement. Although clearly match/contributory funding is an issue.
- 1.4 The Carlisle Connect 2 scheme consists of a cycle/pedestrian route from Currock to Kingmoor much of the route being off road or on quiet housing estate roads. The core route has an estimated cost of £4.4m in total and the route has been divided into a total of 29 sections. So far total funding of £2.75m (including the Sustrans contribution) has been identified leaving £1.65m still to be identified over the next 5 years.
- 1.5 Much of the funding so far identified is coming from the Environment Agency and the County Council. Further funding is being sought from developers who would benefit from the cycle/pedestrian facilities, from other grants which Sustrans are assisting us to identify and from Land Fill Tax funding. The major element of the schedule for which funding requires to be found is the bridge over the River Eden.

- 1.6 There are still many problems to be resolved and investigations to undertake which may require amendments to the route. However, officers will continue to progress this scheme subject to the endorsement of members. Both the City and County Council may wish to consider whether they make a financial contribution towards this scheme through future budgets.
- 1.7 Improved cycling facilities are currently being developed through movement studies linked to Carlisle Renaissance. The movement strategies should be presented to both the City & County Councils in December.

## **2.0 IMPLICATIONS**

Staffing/Resources – There are no staffing implications.

Financial – As outlined earlier in the report this project still requires to identify funding sources over the next 5 years. The City Council needs to consider whether it wishes to make a capital contribution towards this scheme.

Legal – Legal Services are involved in the preparation of the Memorandum of Understanding with Sustrans

Corporate – This project will support the Green Agenda being promoted by the Council. The County Council, as Highway Authority, would need to financially support the construction and maintenance of cycling routes.

Risk Management – The risks associated with this project are still being assessed as the design evolves.

Equality and Disability – The provision of proper cycle/pedestrian facilities will Assist those with mobility difficulties.

Environmental – The promotion of cycling/walking is an important part of the Green Agenda, and will greatly assist in providing alternatives to the car and reducing CO2 Emissions.

Crime and Disorder – If usage of the paths used by the cycle route increases then It is likely that this will lead to fewer incidents of crime and disorder. Any problems Are likely to be reported and dealt with promptly.

Impact on Customers – N/A