

Report to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.3

Meeting Date: 8th October 2020
 Portfolio: Culture, Heritage and Leisure
 Key Decision: Not Applicable:
 Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes
 Public / Private: Public

Title: CYCLING WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS (CWIPS)
 Report of: The Deputy Chief Executive
 Report Number: CS.27/20

Purpose / Summary: The purpose of the report is to update the Panel on progress with a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (L-CWIP) for Carlisle.

Recommendations: That the contents of the report are noted.

Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1.0 BACKGROUND & PROCESS

- 1.1** Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (CWIP) are intended to be the vehicle for ensuring that investment in active travel is carried out in a strategic way and that the correct priorities are identified and addressed. Primary responsibility for CWIP rests with the Highway Authority (Cumbria County Council) but districts are recognised as significant partners.
- 1.2** Cumbria County Council started work on a county-wide CWIP early in 2020 but the work has been significantly delayed due to the impact of Covid on the regular processes of local government. However, a consultation meeting was held in Carlisle shortly before the lockdown, including officers, members and external partners. At this consultation meeting the consensus was that Carlisle was deserving of a specific CWIP due to its role as a regional centre; the potential for increasing the proportion of active travel among commuters; the potential for improving local air quality; and the potential for improving levels of physical activity among the population at large but particularly adults. Further work has continued and in June the Carlisle Highways & Transportation Working Group (HTWG) of the County Council agreed in principle the idea of commissioning a consultant to produce a CWIP for Carlisle. The County has now agreed a contribution of £15,800 towards the commission and the City Council has been asked to provide the balance of £10,000. The Director of Planning and Economic Development is considering the use of existing regeneration budgets to fund the City Council's contribution.
- 1.3** Appendix 1 is a briefing note by the County Council officer responsible for infrastructure planning, including active travel (cycling and walking paths). While events continue to advance, the note provides an overview of the County's thinking. It is disappointing to note that the second tranche of funding, identified in the note, has now been allocated and that none of this money will be spent in Carlisle – projects elsewhere in Cumbria were rated as higher priorities.

2.0 PROPOSALS

- 2.1** The County Council as Highway Authority is the lead body in the development of CWIP and the City Council's role is to support and work with the County at the district level. The involvement of the City Council in a partnership the development of a local CWIP for Carlisle is an appropriate expression of this support.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1** Further collaborative working involving City and County Councils is planned, including a virtual meeting in mid-October, to refine the brief for the local CWIP.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1** The development of the Carlisle CWIP was subject of a consultation and planning meeting held at the County Council's offices on London Road in January 2020.
- 4.2** Extensive consultation with the public and interested bodies has taken place over a number of years in relation to the development of transport and movement plans for Carlisle and the potential for a network of cycling and walking routes within the city.

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** The enforced shutdown of the UK economy in 2020 highlighted the value placed by local people on the opportunity for traffic-free travel. Sales of bicycles increased exponentially and the usage of cycle and walking routes was at unprecedented levels. It is therefore incumbent on the appropriate authorities to ensure that this latent demand for safe, active travel options is available for our communities once the immediate threat from Covid is nullified.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

- 6.1** Priority 1 – Improve opportunities and economic prospects for the people of Carlisle
Priority 2 – Support the health and wellbeing of our residents.
Priority 3 – Improve the quality of the local environment.
Priority 4 – Protect and improve residents' quality of life

Contact Officer: Darren Crossley

Ext: 7004

Appendices

attached to report:

1. Briefing note

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL -

FINANCE –

EQUALITY –

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –

Briefing Note

Title of Briefing:	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Carlisle
Date:	8 th June 2020
Author:	Mark Brierley, Infrastructure Planning Lead Officer
Unit / Directorate:	Infrastructure Planning, Economy and Infrastructure Directorate
Audience:	Carlisle Highways and Transportation Working Group

1.0 PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to inform Members of the progress on the production of a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Carlisle and seeks a contribution from Cumbria County Council Local Committee for Carlisle towards the programme.
- 1.2 The paper follows a presentation to the Carlisle Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group on the 11th February 2020.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cumbria County Council endorsed the Cumbria Cycling Strategy in 2017, together with Cumbria's district councils, national parks, cycling bodies and highways partners.
- 2.2 The Cumbria Cycling Strategy sets the context for the development of cycling infrastructure in Cumbria. The strategy has four objectives:
1. Promoting cycling as part of healthy lifestyle
 2. Enabling cycling to support the Cumbrian economy
 3. Promoting Cumbria as an excellent place to cycle
 4. Improving the cycling infrastructure to enable more cycling
- 2.3 Cumbria County Council has committed to being the lead partner on the fourth objective to improve the cycling infrastructure. Improving the infrastructure is key to enabling the other three objectives. It is therefore proposed to give consideration to the development of series of LCWIPs and to identify a series of schemes that will help achieve the objectives of the strategy.
- 2.4 The methodology for LCWIPs has been developed by the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the national Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. It is expected that access to DfT funding for local cycling and walking schemes will be dependent upon the schemes inclusion in a LCWIP.
- 2.5 Initially, the Council focused on asking local representatives and stakeholders for their ambition for cycling and walking in their area, with workshops held in

Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith, Whitehaven and Workington, with the Carlisle workshop being held on the 29th January.

- 2.6 The Carlisle workshop was well attended by members of Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council, and concluded that further work should be undertaken to develop consensus for development of a Carlisle LCWIP.

3.0 PROGRESS ON A CARLISLE LCWIP

- 3.1 The proposal to develop a Carlisle LCWIP was taken to the Carlisle Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group on the 11th February 2020, which endorsed the proposal referring the decision to fund the LCWIP to the next meeting of the Carlisle Highway and Transport Working Group (H&TWG).
- 3.2 The Covid-19 emergency temporarily halted the meetings of the H&TWG.
- 3.3 The LCWIP programme was considered to be important to the future recovery of Cumbria economy once the Covid-19 restrictions eased later in the year.
- 3.4 Cumbria County Council tendered for consultancy support in the production of the original 6 LCWIPs, appointing WSP in May 2020.
- 3.5 After securing local funding, work on preparing the first LCWIP in the programme began in Barrow-in-Furness in late May 2020 as phase one of the commission. The LCWIPs for Carlisle and Kendal were planned for phase three with more of the work being undertaken by Cumbria County Council officers.
- 3.6 Discussions have been held with Carlisle City Council and the Cumbria LEP to secure funding for the Carlisle LCWIP, with the following funding offers being made; Carlisle City Council (£10,000) and Cumbria LEP (£5,000).
- 3.7 The cost for a standalone LCWIP for Carlisle to be produced now by WSP is £30,830.

4.0 COVID-19 EMERGENCY ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND

- 4.1 In response to the Covid-19 emergency, the Department for Transport has established the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) with £250 million funding over two phases for emergency active travel infrastructure in the summer of 2020.
- 4.2 The application for tranche 1 was made on 5th June 2020 and Cumbria has been awarded £233,000 in the first tranche and £934,000 in the second.
- 4.3 The second tranche will be released later in the summer to enable authorities to install further, more permanent measures to cement cycling and walking habits. Where applicable, this will enable local authorities to implement schemes already planned in LCWIPs.

- 4.4 The Department for Transport has revised the guidance on the Emergency Active Travel Fund, in response to changes in the lockdown regulations, with further changes likely prior to opening of the second tranche of funding.
- 4.5 Prior to the Covid-19 emergency the Government had announced a £2 billion walking and cycling programme, details of which are yet to be released.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) could allow schemes recommended in a Carlisle LCWIP to be delivered very quickly.
- 5.2 Should the consultants be commissioned to deliver a standalone LCWIP for Carlisle, this will include outlining schemes that could qualify for funding under the EATF as a priority.
- 5.3 To do so, a funding allocation of £15,830 should be considered by the H&TWG and Carlisle Local Committee.
- 5.4 Should the programme proceed as originally planned, the H&TWG and Carlisle Local Committee would require a funding allocation of £10,000.
- 5.5 Should the H&TWG and Carlisle Local Committee not wish to proceed with a Carlisle LCWIP, no funding would be required.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the H&TWG recommend that the Carlisle Local Committee the £15,830 be allocated to allow the urgent development of a Carlisle LCWIP.