

Leicestershire Cycling and Walking Strategy (CaWS)

E&T Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4 March 2021

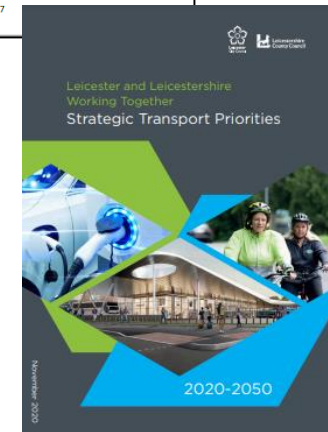


- 2020 Government made significant shift in Cycling & Walking policy
- LCC are developing a Cycling and Walking Strategy (CaWS) - to provide a clear framework to underpin future decisions
- Under the CaWS – developing Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP's) - setting out the detail of C&W proposals

- Very significant policy shift – publishing ‘*Gear Change: a bold vision for cycling and walking*’(2020) & new design guidance;
 - Cycling must be placed at the heart of the transport network
 - Reallocation of road space to cyclists focusing on segregated off-road facilities
 - LA’s schemes which do not follow this guidance will **not** be funded.
- Government promised to provide long-term C&W budget, but;
 - The amounts are tiny in comparison to road investment (£257m for active travel in 2021 compared to £27bn fund for Strategic Road Network over 5 years)
 - It’s predominately capital – evidence shows infrastructure needs to be supported by revenue funded behavioural change measures
 - Funding will only be awarded to those authorities with Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) or similar Plans on same principles



- The Council's **Strategic Plan** (2018-22) outlines five key outcomes – cycling and walking supports all
- **Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities 2020-2050 (LLSTP)** sets out the strategic priorities which support the principle of a sustainable travel hierarchy which prioritises and promotes cycling and walking
- The Council declared a **Climate Emergency** in 2019
- **Environment Strategy** sets out how the Council will reduce the environmental impacts of travel and transport. Net Zero by 2045
- Annual Report of the Director of **Public Health** highlighted the need to tackle obesity, improving air quality and improving physical and mental wellbeing.



- Strategy needed to meet Government policy change and wider agendas (Public health, Environment, Growth)
- Provide a clear framework for future working
- Set out aspirations for cycling and walking – supporting LCWIP's
- Provide a clear policy basis to secure external funding

- Under the Cycling and Walking Strategy LCWIP's are needed to;
 - Identify network plans for required C&W improvements at the local level
 - Enable a long-term approach to developing local C&W networks, e.g. over 10-years
 - Provide prioritised programme of infrastructure for future investment
 - Understand and evidence the benefits that projects deliver – monitoring & evaluation
 - Support funding bids
- LCWIP Principles:
 - Evidence based and selected routes have been audited
 - Ensure Authorities have a pipeline of schemes ready to be taken forward quickly
 - Plans have been informed by public consultation and engagement
 - Plans are integrated with broader Local Transport Plans

- Development and implementation of LCWIPs comes at significant cost – it is estimated that:
 - Data Gathering: £1.7m to £2.3m - to install camera counters
 - Data Analysis: £100k to £200k per annum operating costs
 - £1.1m to £1.5m to develop Plans for all county towns, urban city fringes and key corridors
 - Behavioural change programmes: £500k - £1m per annum (revenue)
 - Cost of actually delivering an LCWIP is in the ten's of millions e.g. £10m-£20m+
- How can Leicestershire afford this this?
 - This is more than would be fundable in one go
 - Will need to come from Government, land developers and other funding sources over a long period of time
 - This is why it is important to put in place a Cycling and Walking Strategy to provide a clear framework to underpin future investment decisions

- Engaging with districts' early to give them an opportunity to shape the Strategy – asking key questions:
 - What are ambitions for C&W in the wider agendas?
 - How do we prioritise areas – established Local Plan development process?
 - How do we fund the development of LCWIPs that accord with Government requirements?
 - How do we work together to secure funding for the development and delivery of LCWIPs given scale of work versus funding available?
- SPG representatives have been asked to provide written feedback on behalf of their respective districts
- Engaging with key stakeholders undertaking focus group sessions
- Engaging with Members through various channels
- Engaging with the public and wider stakeholders through online public engagement survey:
 - www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/cycling-and-walking-engagement
 - Over 700 responses received in first 2 weeks
 - Survey availability extended to 14th March

- March – June: developing the Cycling and Walking Strategy (CaWS)
- Draft CaWS brought to E&TOSC June 2021 meeting
- Cabinet approval sought on final CaWS (20th July 2021)
- Subject to Cabinet approval and funding;
 - Identify next LCWIP area
 - Data collection – development of evidence base
 - Begin development of proposals
- Agree approach to joint working for development and delivery of LCWIPs

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