

ACTIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION INCLUDING WALKING & CYCLING PLAN**Report of the Director of Public Health and Director of Place****1. Introduction**

This report paper presents The Active Communities Strategy (ACS) which has recently been developed to promote physical activity in Stockport. There are a number of supporting plans to the ACS. This report also presents the recently revised Walking and Cycling Plan.



We would now like to consult widely on these two specific strategies/ plans before they are finalised and presented to Cabinet for endorsement. A summary of each document is presented below and the full strategies are attached. The proposal for consultation are included.

2. The Active Communities Strategy

The Active Community Strategy is our new strategic plan to support our residents become physically active to enjoy the health and well-being benefits of such activities. It takes a whole system approach looking at how we can promote physical activity in all plans and strategies, improve and enhance our physical environment, work with key partners to promote physical activity, support our many local assets including community sports groups, activity groups for children and young people and family based programmes.

Whilst Stockport has some of the highest levels of physical activity in Greater Manchester, the focus of the strategy is on how we particularly focus on those residents who are currently inactive, developing programmes and opportunities that will increase their participation in physical activity.

This strategy outlines the key physical activity guidelines, and our current data on physical activity which has enabled us to identify those groups of residents where we need to focus concerted efforts. It also includes the insights from our local residents which have enabled us to develop a strategy based on what is meaningful and important to them.

The strategy also identifies the range of other programmes currently active in Stockport that promote physical activity, such as the school's partnership SHAPES, the active ageing programme and proposals to utilise new funding from the GM Moving programme. It also looks at our cultural opportunities that promote well-being.

A series of action plans are identified within the strategy.

3. The Walking and Cycling Plan

Walking and Cycling are a vital element of the transport system in Stockport, and have been identified as a strategic priority in the draft SEMMMS Refresh. The current individual cycling and walking strategies have now been revised to ensure that they support the Council's strategic aims and are aligned with the Active Communities strategy. Having a clear evidence based plan will contribute to a number of key Council priorities and ambitions, including health and wellbeing, inclusive growth, air quality, and sustainable transport. Crucially, an agreed long term plan will also clearly articulate the Council's strategic priorities in the context of accessing potential funding via the Mayoral Challenge Fund.

Linking with LCWIP/ Beelines

The Beelines proposals set out an indicative network map for investment in physical cycling and walking infrastructure across GM. TfGM are also currently developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for GM in partnership with the 10 local authorities. The LCWIP will focus on identifying physical infrastructure improvements. Both these tools will be used to guide investment priorities for the Mayoral Challenge Fund. Both the Beelines and LCWIP proposals focusing on physical infrastructure will supplement the wider ambitions of the Stockport plan to encourage cycling and walking by methods which go beyond providing just new infrastructure (e.g. education and training).

4. Consultation

The objective of the consultation is to seek feedback on the two strategies prior to their final adoption.

By opening this strategy up for consultation our residents, partners and stakeholders will be able to offer their suggestions for improvements as well as any areas of further development.

From these views, the strategies can be adapted to include these improvements and also take into account any identified areas of concerns. To ensure that the consultation is as fully accessible as possible for Stockport residents the following activities are proposed:

- An online questionnaire will be made available on the Council's website and hard copies made available in libraries and the Town Hall.
- Presentations will be given to each of Stockport's Area Committees and the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- Presentations will be given to key stakeholder groups such as Stockport CCG, local head teachers, Health watch, the Cycle User Group and local business groups.
- The draft strategies will also be sent to key partners such as Life leisure, Stockport Homes, Stockport FT and local community groups and sports and leisure clubs

The consultation commences on the 7th January and runs for a period of 7 weeks. Subject to the level of feedback received during the consultation, it is anticipated that the final strategy documents will be presented to Cabinet for adoption in April.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposed approaches.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Dr Donna Sager on telephone number Tel: 0161-474-3928 or alternatively email donna.sager@stockport.gov.uk or contact Caroline Simpson on Tel: 0161-218-1940 or email caroline.simpson@stockport.gov.uk