

STOCKPORT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE REPORT – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, Heatons Active Neighbourhood Update

Report to: (a) Heatons & Reddish Area Committee **Date:** Monday, 8 March 2021

Report of: (b) Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

Key Decision: (c) **~~NO~~ / YES** *(Please circle)*

Forward Plan ☐ General Exception ☐ Special Urgency ☐ *(Tick box)*

Summary:

This report is to update the Committee on the development of a Heatons Active Neighbourhood scheme which, subject to approvals and funding, the Council would seek to deliver as part of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF).

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is recommended to note the report and provide any comments.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(d)**

Communities & Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(e)**

There are none.

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Nick Whelan
Tel: 0161-474-4907

'Urgent Business': (f) **~~YES~~ / NO** *(please circle)*

Certification (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor _____ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on _____ /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, Heatons Active Neighbourhood Update

Report of the Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to update the Committee on the development of a Heatons Active Neighbourhood scheme which, subject to approvals and funding, the Council would seek to deliver as part of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF).
- 1.2 An Active Neighbourhood aims to enable short trips on foot, by cycle and by public transport in preference to car travel by making physical changes to an area.
- 1.3 The Committee is recommended to note the report and provide any comments.

2. ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

- 2.1. A 7-week engagement exercise was carried out in September-October 2020. This gave the local community an opportunity to comment on whether they may support the introduction of Active Neighbourhood features, and, in particular, where the key issues are that are concerning them and where they think new measures would be of benefit.
- 2.2. An extensive leaflet drop was undertaken to approximately 16,000 properties, supplemented by on-street signage, posters, a press release and social media schedule. Several stakeholders were written to within the community, and schools were engaged to raise awareness and maximise involvement in the engagement exercise.
- 2.3. The engagement was hosted on Commonplace, an online community consultation platform that allows users to pin comments on a map.
- 2.4. This was the first phase of engagement to gather information and enable focus on key issues identified by the community. More detailed consultation is planned as proposals are developed.
- 2.5. More information about the scheme and the responses to the engagement exercise can be viewed at <https://heatons.commonplace.is/>.
- 2.6. A detailed review of the responses is ongoing and Officers are working with Local Members and the WalkRide Heatons group in the early development of a scheme. Officers thank the group for their efforts to date, including promotion of the engagement exercise.
- 2.7. The wider area being considered for Active Neighbourhood proposals has been broken into sub-zones and corridors, allowing smaller areas to be considered in more

detail alongside neighbouring zones and corridors. The 'zone plan' is included at **Appendix A (F-0276-0000-000)**.

- 2.8. Comment summary reports have been prepared for the zones and corridors which present the engagement responses in a more readable format, enabling key issues, opportunities and potential measures to be grouped and realised. These are included at **Appendix B**.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1. Officers intend to present Active Neighbourhood trial proposals to Committee which, subject to approvals, are planned to take place in late summer 2021. The process of identifying areas for potentially hosting trials is underway.
- 3.2. As noted above, a detailed review of the engagement exercise response is ongoing. In parallel to this, data is being considered across the area including personal injury collision statistics, the presence of local amenities and facilities including schools and green infrastructure, other land uses and demographic information.
- 3.3. Officers are endeavouring to include trial areas across various Wards and are considering locations with specific and differing issues, needs and/or facilities such as schools, the railway station, local shops and longer distance routes.
- 3.4. Officers will work with Local Members in finalising the initial trial areas over the coming months, utilising responses to the engagement exercise and in liaison with local community groups, including WalkRide.
- 3.5. Trial proposals will then be developed in further consideration of the engagement response, and in close and continued liaison with Local Members and the WalkRide group. Other stakeholders in the local areas will also be identified and engaged, including schools.
- 3.6. It is worth noting that the trial areas will not necessarily be those in which a permanent scheme may be developed.
- 3.7. Following the completion of trials and based on the outcomes, development of permanent scheme proposals and associated consultation is planned to be undertaken in late 2021. Subject to approvals and funding, the Council would then seek to deliver the scheme from 2022.

4. MORE INFORMATION

- 4.1. As above, more information about the developing scheme and the responses to the engagement exercise can be viewed at <https://heatons.commonplace.is/>.
- 4.2. More information about cycling and walking in Stockport, including improvements as part of MCF is available at www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/cycling-and-walking-in-stockport.
- 4.3. Anyone requiring further information should contact Alex Purrier on 0161 474 2299 or at alex.purrier@stockport.gov.uk.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. The Committee is recommended to note the report and provide any comments.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Nick Whelan on telephone number Tel: 0161-474-4907 or by email on nick.whelan@stockport.gov.uk