

## **SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL**

### **Cycling Strategic Review Scope Report.**

#### **Report of Director of Place Management**

#### **Recommendations:**

- **To determine the scope of the review, and outline any areas which the panel may wish to scrutinise further; and**
- **to consider and agree future meeting dates.**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed scope for reviewing the topic of active travel in particular cycling.

Title of review	Cycling Strategic Review
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#### **2. Background to the selection of the topic**

- 2.1 Active travel is a key element of national, regional and local transport policy. Encouraging people to walk, wheel and cycle supports a number of policy objectives including Climate Change ambitions, public health aspirations, reduction in pollution and improved accessibility.
- 2.2 A whole systems approach is required to achieving modal shift including providing the right environment, infrastructure, training, behavioural change opportunities /education and information.
- 2.3 Council officers working with Transport for Greater Manchester officers are continuing to seek to address all these areas of work.

#### **3. Information**

- 3.1 The Council has “A Plan for Walking and Cycling in Stockport 2019-2029” that was approved in 2019 and it contains the following vision and objectives.

- 3.2 The Council wants walking and cycling in Stockport to both become desirable and mainstream methods of travel, which are perceived to be safe, realistic, and pleasant options. Our long-term vision for walking and cycling in Stockport is: To make walking and cycling the natural choices for all ages and abilities for commuting, utility, and leisure trips over shorter distances both within Stockport and to neighbouring areas.
- 3.3 By 2029 our ambition is to deliver a high quality and fully connected walking and cycling network and to promote walking and cycling as regular and accessible forms of transport for all age groups and ability levels. To deliver this vision the following objectives have been identified:
- Objective 1 Create and maintain high quality and fully connected walking and cycling networks within Stockport.
  - Objective 2 Enable 'last mile' walking and cycling to enable interconnection with public transport.
  - Objective 3 Use targeted promotion and training to enable all groups to consider walking and cycling, and to improve safety.
  - Objective 4 Ensure that neighbourhoods and district centres are "walking and cycling friendly" to encourage local trips by bike and on foot.
  - Objective 5 Ensure that employment, residential, retail and leisure activities in the town centre are accessible by bike and on foot.
  - Objective 6 Improve and maintain high quality walking and cycling connections with local networks, ensuring that areas adjacent to Stockport are fully integrated.
- 3.4 The plan also contained action plans, and their five-year review has just commenced.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Key Stakeholders**

- 4.1 The Council has a key role in encouraging cycling and officers work with Transport for Greater Manchester officers to seek to deliver infrastructure, education, training and information to encourage active travel modes.
- 4.2 Active Travel modes are promoted as part of Local Planning policy for new developments and new infrastructure may be funded as part of new developments.
- 4.3 There are numerous stakeholders with views about cycling both supportive and unsupportive. In general people support the principle of encouraging cycling and providing appropriate infrastructure however they may not support changes to the local highway network.
- 4.4 Residents, businesses and their employees, and visitors may wish to cycle to enable them to move in a more sustainable manner around Stockport, the Greater Manchester area and neighbouring authorities to go to school, work, access healthcare, retail facilities and for leisure trips.
- 4.5 There are a number of local groups with an interest in cycling including: various local Walk/ Ride groups which are part of Greater Manchester

WalkRide- a community interest company, British cycling, Cycling UK, Sustrans, Stockport Community Cycling Club, CERA Cycloan, Wheels for all, Station South a community interest company based in Levenshulme.

- 4.6 There is also more sport orientated groups such as Stockport cycle speedway club at St Thomas's recreation ground, Stockport Clarion Club and BMX at Bruntwood park and local people may use the facilities at the Manchester Velodrome. Peak District Mountain Biking is an advocacy group promoting mountain biking.
- 4.7 Several groups focus on particular demographics such as Cheadle Mosque has a cycle group and there are a number of informal groups e.g., mums with cargo bikes.
- 4.8 Seashell Trust promotes inclusive cycling and has a track on site with typical road layout features and adaptive bikes.
- 4.9 In addition, we have a number of commercial organisations including cycle shops, Farmer John's Mountain biking park, and individual cycle trainers.
- 4.10 Life Leisure is developing a programme of activities working closely with council officers and they provided the following information regarding their activities:
  - **Brinnington Cycling drop-ins** – fortnightly drop-in sessions on Wednesday between 2pm and 5pm, supporting young people and adults to drop their bike off and learn how to make small fixes on their bike. Funded over the last 3 years, this includes the remainder of this year in the centre of Brinnington.
  - **Event Cycling drop-ins** – support the Transport team with the organisations Never Mind the Bike Shops to provide the same as above, at varied events across Stockport.
  - **Hollywood Park and Parkview community programme (Summer)** – For up to 6 weeks, delivered Cycling drop-ins as part of a funded programme in partnership with the Stockport Council and Civic and Social.
  - **Adapted bikes** – We secured 12 adapted bikes in 2023 which is situated at our hub site in Brinnington, delivering sessions weekly and taking the adapted bikes to events across Stockport.
  - **Secured funding for a new Bike storage unit at Life Leisure Hazel Grove** – We secured funding through the TfGM for a new Cycling storage unit at Life Leisure Hazel Grove (due to be installed September 24).

## **5. What would be the scope of the Scrutiny Review of this topic?**

- 5.1 Cycling is a key element of several council plans including active communities, public health, Climate Action Now and the transportation strategy and the Council has a number of roles to encourage this activity including training, information, education and the provision of infrastructure.

- 5.2 It is therefore recommended that the Strategic Cycling Scrutiny Review considers the following topic areas:
- i. Develop an understanding of the various roles the Council undertakes to encourage cycling and the key stakeholders' views of these roles.
  - ii. Understand the policy background, and review the actions taken to encourage cycling and progress to date.
  - iii. Understand the potential financial implications for Stockport for both capital and revenue financing to support these activities,
  - iv. Identifying opportunities to encourage cycling in Stockport.
  - v. Understand and comment on the process for delivering cycling infrastructure.

**6. Proposed outline Review plan**

Stage	Key activity	Relevant meetings ( <b>in bold</b> )/ key dates
Scoping	Scope agreed by Scrutiny Review Panel	<b>25<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase	<b>25<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>
	Evidence-gathering phase/ final evidence session	
	Verbal update on review progress from panel members to the Scrutiny Committee	
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed and signed-off by Panel Chair	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
	Report published for Scrutiny Committee	
	Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees report to go forward to decision-makers.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025</b>
	Cabinet considers recommendations.	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>

- 6.1 It is expected that the panel will conclude the work for their review by the end of the municipal year 2024 - 2025. During the review, panel members will formulate a number of recommendations that will go on to be considered by the Community and Transport Scrutiny Committee and thereafter, the Cabinet.

Anyone requiring further information should contact:

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