

## LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS (LCWIPS) UPDATE

Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – 18 September 2023

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Planning and Regulatory Services

**Status:** For information

**Also considered by:** N/A

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report updates members on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Sevenoaks and Swanley, supported by the Movement Strategy (2022) and emerging Local Plan (Plan 2040).

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** the Council's commitments to promoting better active travel and working towards Net Zero 2030.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Emma Henshall, Ext. 7358

**Recommendation to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board:**

To note this update report for information.

**Reason for recommendation:** Identifying opportunities for better active travel across the District is a key priority that can assist in reducing carbon emissions, improve air quality and result in positive health outcomes, as well as helping work towards the Council's Net Zero 2030 commitment.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 Active travel has many benefits – walking, wheeling and cycling can all help to positively impact people's health and wellbeing and bring significant environmental benefits including improving air quality, reducing noise pollution and reducing traffic and therefore carbon emissions. The Council is committed to promoting and creating opportunities for better active travel in the District through its Movement Strategy (2022) and emerging Local Plan.
- 2 This report updates members on the ongoing work to improve opportunities for walking, wheeling and cycling in the District through the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).

## Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP

- 3 The Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP identifies eight walking, wheeling and cycling routes, mapped at Appendix 1, and prioritises them in terms of benefits and likelihood of achieving modal shift.
- 4 SDC and KCC have been successful in securing external funding from Active Travel England to progress three of the eight identified routes. An update on progress is set out below. Full details on each project are included at Appendix 2.

Project	Progress Update
Sevenoaks LCWIP Route 3  Sevenoaks Town East to West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Route	Public consultation on the proposed walking, wheeling and cycling improvements took place for six weeks from 1 June to 14 July 2023. We received 490 consultation responses with overall support of 61%. The recommendation of how to proceed is subject to a separate report to this committee.
Sevenoaks LCWIP Route 1  Sevenoaks to Otford	PJA Associates have been appointed to focus on the key section of the route (Bat and Ball to Otford) to update the 2017 feasibility study and to work up outline designs. A site visit has been undertaken and stakeholder engagement is planned for the Autumn.
Sevenoaks LCWIP Route 6  Sevenoaks to Seal to Otford	PJA Associates have been appointed to prepare a feasibility study for this route. A site visit has been undertaken and stakeholder engagement is planned for the Autumn.

## Swanley Urban Area LCWIP

- 5 Work on the LCWIP for Swanley is progressing well. The appointed consultant, Sustrans, undertook initial stakeholder engagement in June to capture the routes regularly used by residents and to gain an understanding of the current barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling. These sessions (one

online and one in person at White Oak Leisure Centre) were well attended and provided some great insights and ideas to help inform and develop the LCWIP.

- 6 From this, the primary walking, wheeling and cycling network will be worked up, and stakeholders will have another opportunity to get involved in the Autumn, when they will be asked for their views on the proposed routes. Further details on the scope, funding and timeline of the project are included at Appendix 2.

### **Other options Considered and/or rejected**

The active travel initiatives referred to in this report have largely been secured and/or completed using external funding from Active Travel England and in partnership with KCC. We could choose not to engage in further active travel initiatives, through external funding streams or our own budget, however this would contradict the Council's commitment to promoting and creating opportunities for better active travel in the District, and therefore disadvantage our residents. This is not considered to be an acceptable approach. Further, the Council has made a commitment to work towards Net Zero 2030.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

Funding for the active travel initiatives referred to in this report has been secured through external sources and it is not expected that any top up will be required.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

No legal implications have been identified.

#### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

#### Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. This report is to inform members of the ongoing work to contribute towards the commitment.

### **Conclusions**

This report updates members on the active travel initiatives that the District Council is engaged in. It is considered that progress so far contributes towards achieving Net Zero by 2030.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP route map

Appendix 2 – Active Travel Projects (August 2023)

**Background Papers**

None

**Richard Morris**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Planning and Regulatory Services**

## Appendix 1 - Cycle Routes identified in the Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP

