



SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PENDLE'S CYCLING LEGACY STRATEGY

To - Scrutiny Management Team

Date of meeting – 21st March 2017

Notes of - PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR,
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,
ENGINEERING

BRIEFING NOTES RE: Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016 - 2021

Background:

- Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016 -2021 was adopted by the Executive in March 2016. This is Pendle's 4th Cycling Strategy and replaces Pendle's Cycling Strategy 2011 - 2016. Pendle's first Cycling Strategy was adopted in 2000.
- The three main aims of the revised strategy are to:
 - Improve the physical infrastructure for cycling in Pendle by making connections and filling the gaps in our cycle network
 - To improve people's health by encouraging cycling
 - To promote cycling in Pendle and to have a national reputation for Pendle being a great place to cycle along with the rest of Lancashire and promote Pendle as a location for cycle tourism.
- In order to achieve these aims we rely on working with partners to encourage and enable a diverse range of cycling in Pendle.
- Above all we want everyone to get excited about cycling at whatever level they choose for fitness, health, leisure, sport or as spectator and to capture the enthusiasm we had in Pendle following the Tour of Britain Stage 2 from Colne to Clitheroe to Colne in September 2015.

- There has been a lot of investment in cycling infrastructure in Pendle since the first strategy with over £1.5m being spent on the following schemes:
 - Canal towpath throughout Pendle which forms route 68 of the National Cycle Network
 - Barrowford Schools' link
 - Colne Cycle link
 - Steven Burke Sports Hub
 - Other smaller links/connections
- However, we rely heavily on external funding for cycle infrastructure schemes and there is not as much available as there has been in the past despite the National Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and cycling seeming to have become generally more popular across Britain.
- The strategy highlights the importance of health and wellbeing in Pendle. Increasing cycling levels in Pendle could help to achieve aims of the Lancashire Public Health and East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group by addressing health inequalities.
- Cycle tourism is also outlined in the revised strategy. We want to make connections up to Yorkshire and make the most of our vast countryside, off road and quiet road routes and connect to the rest of Lancashire more easily to be a part of the Lancashire Cycle Network in the future.

Updates

- Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy was updated in March 2016.
- Assisted with the Colne Grand Prix which the Town Council has taken over.
- Together with Pennine Events and other cycle clubs and organisations we held the Pedal Pendle Festival in September 2016 including Wiggles Pedal Pendle Sportives. The aim of this was to mark the anniversary of the Tour of Britain in Pendle and to raise awareness of the Steven Burke Sports Hub location.
- Included new 'My Favourite Routes' on the Visit Pendle webpages including sections of the Tour of Britain in Pendle
- Continue to attend the East Lancashire and British Cycling Partnership meetings in order to keep up-to-date with cycling activity/funding across East Lancashire and with British Cycling's guided ride programme including Breeze Rides and Ride Social.
- As a follow on from the above meetings agreed to fund coach training with British Cycling for Rachel Moore our local Breeze Ride Champion. Rachel will be running regular confidence building sessions at the Steven Burke Sports Hub during the summer months. This will help to reach out to people and especially women with less confident cycling skills and should also assist us in encouraging Pendle Council staff to get on a bike later this year.
- Continue searching for funding for phase two of the Steven Burke Sports Hub together with the CSP/BMX Group to create a pump track at Bullholme.
- In the meantime CSP/BMX Club were successful with an application to the Clinical Commissioning Group for some development funding which paid for a mini pump track

at the Steven Burke Sports Hub and coach training. We hope the new pump track and accessibility to BMX cycling will encourage new types of cyclist to the Hub and might attract new people to cycling in Pendle in the longer term.

- The Steven Burke Sports Hub continues to be popular and is regularly booked by cycle clubs in Pendle as well as clubs from outside Pendle. We have also had new interest from triathlon clubs.
- The location of the Steven Burke Sports Hub is difficult from a public access point of view but we plan to hold another Pedal Pendle Festival there in September this year. A separate report will go to Barrowford, Nelson and Colne Area Committees in April seeking financial support.
- Cycle Development Pendle Partnership (CDPP) is now more active. They will assist Colne Town Council with the Colne Grand Prix again this year. We need to continue to develop the group and increase membership to help us to reach out to a wider group of cyclists
- Cllr Nawaz Ahmed continues to be the Council's Cycling Champion.
- We recently included cycle links and a circular route in a bid to ESIF for the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate Extension to start to make better connections to the rest of East Lancashire.

Notes on funding Growth Fund

- Our major concern is to improve the cycling infrastructure across Pendle. Funding has been difficult to source.
- We were informed by the LCC Cycling Officer at our Cycle Forum meetings that there might be funding for Pendle in the future attached to the Lancashire Cycle Way.
- However, the current round of funding that has been approved for the Lancashire Cycle Way is £2.6 million secured from the Lancashire Growth Deal through the Lancashire Economic Partnership; £3 million from LCC and £0.25m from Blackburn Council totalling £5.85m and is for 4 specific schemes. These are in Blackburn, Hyndburn and Rossendale and are connected to Samlesbury's Enterprise Zone, employment zones at Huncoat, Whitebirk, Rising Bridge and Haslingden and along Rossendale Valley as well as Blackburn Town Centre. They appear to be based around the schemes set out in the Local Transport Masterplans. Pendle and other parts of East Lancashire appear to be on the periphery.
- Funding identified in the National Walking and Cycling Investment Strategy for cycling infrastructure has already been allocated via the LEP's through the Growth Bids until 2020 and is based around existing development sites.
- There is likely to be more opportunities for funding for cycling within the Local Growth Fund and Local Transport Masterplans in the future. It would be beneficial for senior officers who identify schemes for these plans to be aware that cycling and walking schemes could also benefit and be included.

- We feel it is important to continue to attend the East Lancashire and British Cycling Partnership Meetings to ensure we are aware of future activity across East Lancashire.
- We plan to meet with Sustrans to see if they can advise on creating routes with their own identify from our strategy.

Access Fund

- The Access Fund is a fund allocated by the Department for Transport to support sustainable transport projects that seek to grow the economy.
- It is for revenue funding only and Transport Authorities applied for it on behalf of the local authorities.
- Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen applied jointly for schemes in East Lancashire and recently received approval for their joint bid.
- This is all revenue funding and is seen as an extension of the previous LSTF and is likely to fund schemes for cycle hire, motorised cycles, cycle training schemes as well as building up centres of excellence for cycling across East Lancashire.
- One of the aims of the East Lancashire with British Cycling Partnership is to join up Centres of Excellence for cycling across East Lancashire. We would like the Steven Burke Sports Hub to be our centre of excellence and hope that the Access Fund will help us to achieve this.
- We are liaising with LCC directly to establish what this funding means for Pendle.

Section 106

- The Booths Section 106 monies will pay for an off road route in the grass verge on Colne Road to link up to the tow path creating a circular route and connecting to other off road paths that people can use safely.
- It will allow people to access Booths safely and pleasantly by bike and on foot. It is hoped this will be completed within the next year although we may need to seek some additional funding and there are some issues with landownership that we are discussing with LCC.

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Background Papers: None

Ref:

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