



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: John Mothersole, Chief Executive

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 16th April 2014

Subject: Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee: Cycling Inquiry Report

Author of Report: Matthew Borland 0114 2735065

Key Decision: NO

Summary:

Cycling is important to thousands of people in Sheffield for transport, leisure and recreation. The Committee reviewed what we are doing in Sheffield and what we can do better, in order to improve the opportunities for cycling.

The Committee propose an updated vision and strategic approach to cycling in Sheffield by identifying measures to broaden and increase participation in cycling.

A cross party approach to this task was adopted and the Committee welcomed the direct involvement of cyclists in its work.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The Committee's Cycling Inquiry report makes 19 recommendations. The recommendation is for the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development to respond to the Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report in three months' time as this would provide the Cabinet Member and the services with time to develop a detailed response.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Thank the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for its work on the Cycling Inquiry
2. Note the Cycling Inquiry Report
3. Request a detailed response to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report from the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development at the July 2014 Cabinet meeting.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: **OPEN**

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Paul Jeffries
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Adele Robinson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES
Economic Impact
YES
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

Report to Cabinet

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee: Cycling Inquiry Report

1. Summary

- 1.1. Cycling is important to thousands of people in Sheffield for transport, leisure and recreation. The All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group's 2013 report, Get Britain Cycling presented a good opportunity for the Committee to review what we are doing in Sheffield and what we can do better, in order to improve the opportunities for cycling. The Committee believe Sheffield is one of the first places to mirror this national approach at a local level.
- 1.2. The key task was to propose an updated vision and strategic approach to cycling in Sheffield by identifying measures to broaden and increase participation in cycling in Sheffield. A cross party approach to this task was adopted and the Committee welcomed the direct involvement of cyclists in its work.
- 1.3. The Committee reviewed the existing evidence on the impact of cycling on the local economy, health and the environment. Overall they are convinced of the benefits that cycling can make in these areas. It is also important to remember that for many people the motivation to cycle is because it is joyful and liberating.
- 1.4. The Committee looked at what is happening in the city and compared Sheffield with other cities. It found that Sheffield compares reasonably well with other cities but they want to do even better. There is a lot of good work already taking place and the Committee wants to improve on this, for example by joining up planning and highway developments.
- 1.5. The Committee took the opportunity to directly ask people and organisations what they thought about cycling in Sheffield. The themes from the Call for Evidence were followed up with an oral evidence session to further explore potential solutions with a wide range of people and organisations. The key messages heard from both the written and oral evidence was that there are a wide range of reasons why people cycle. In order to improve participation the city needs strong political leadership to promote the cycling agenda across the Council, as well as addressing behavioural issues and improvements to the cycling infrastructure.
- 1.6. The Committee sets out a vision:

To realise the full potential of cycling to contribute to the health and wealth of Sheffield, and the quality of life in our local communities, and to play its part in a fully integrated transport network that will encourage reduced car usage, alleviate congestion and ease pollution across the whole of the city. We believe this is both possible and necessary.

We need to get the whole of Sheffield cycling: not just healthy people or sporty young males, but people of all ages and backgrounds, in urban and rural areas.

We need to change the culture of how we use our roads, so that people are no longer afraid to cycle or allow their children to do so. Our streets, roads and local communities, need to become places for people, where cycling and walking are safe and normal.

We endorse the aim of the Get Britain Cycling report to see cycle use increase to 10% of all journeys in 2025 and 25% in 2050.

- 1.7. To help achieve this ambitious vision 19 recommendations are made in the following areas:

Strong Leadership

- Political Leadership
- Working with others to develop and support cycling
- Making the most of opportunities

Getting the Right Infrastructure in Place

- A Long Term Plan
- Publicising the Cycle Network
- Integrating cycling with public transport
- Cycling and walking audits

Getting People Cycling

- Training
- Behaviour on our roads
- Cycle Tourism

- 1.8. There is a wealth of evidence and detail behind the report with a number of supporting documents available on the Council's website.¹

2. What does this mean for Sheffield People

- 2.1. The Cycling Inquiry Report is about how we can get the whole of Sheffield cycling: not just healthy people or sporty young males, but people of all ages and backgrounds, in urban and rural areas.

3. Outcome and Sustainability

- 3.1. The outcome of the Cycling Inquiry Report will to a very large extent be determined by the response to the Report by the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development in the summer and the subsequent implementation.

¹ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/council-meetings/scrutiny-committees.html>

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1. This report provides Cabinet with the Economic and Environmental Scrutiny Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report. The Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development is asked to respond in detail at Cabinet's July 2014 meeting to the Cycling Inquiry report. This response will set out which recommendations will be implemented and over what timescale. The full response to the Committee's report from the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development in the July 2014 will contain the legal implications of those recommendations that the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development proposes to implement.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Committee is very aware of the financial context in which the Council and partner agencies are now operating. For this reason, some of the recommendations are about attracting funding to support cycling in to the city. The full response to the Committee's report from the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development will contain the detail of any financial implications. To be clear this report to Cabinet is not seeking approval for spend.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1. The Committee was clear in the Terms of Reference for the Cycling Inquiry that it wanted to "identify measures to broaden and increase participation in cycling in Sheffield."
- 6.2. The Committee took the opportunity to directly ask people and organisations what they thought about cycling in Sheffield. The Committee asked to people to complete a monitoring form as part of this. Of the monitoring forms that were completed the Committee were aware that voices from young people, women, and BME people were under represented in the responses. The themes from the Call for Evidence were followed up in an oral evidence session, and this including ensuring the involvement of young people, women and BME people as part of the oral evidence session.
- 6.3. One of the Committee's recommendations focuses on cycle training and broadening participation:
- "Improved communication needs to be in place within the next year so that training can lead to broadening participation amongst all Sheffielders, whatever their age, gender or ethnicity."
- 6.4. As part of the updates on implementation the Committee will be requesting information on participation in cycling, including specifically whether participation is broadening amongst the groups referenced above.

7. Other relevant implications

- 7.1. The Cycling Inquiry report highlights the positive benefits that cycling can make to the economy; health and the environment (see page 5 of the attached Cycling Inquiry Report).

8. Alternative Options Considered

- 8.1. An alternative option in relation to the recommendations below would be to do nothing with the Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report. However, given the time and effort spent by the Committee's Inquiry and contributions to the Inquiry from members of the public and other organisations this was not deemed a viable option.
- 8.2. An alternative option in relation to the recommendations below would be to respond to Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report over a much longer timescale. However, this would be at the risk of losing some of the momentum from the Inquiry.

9. Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1. The Committee's Cycling Inquiry report makes 19 recommendations. The Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development is asked to respond to the Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report in three months' time as this would provide the Cabinet Member and the services with time to develop a detailed response.

10. Recommendations

10.1. Cabinet is asked to:

1. Thank the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for its work on the Cycling Inquiry
2. Note the Cycling Inquiry Report
3. Request a detailed response to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Cycling Inquiry Report from the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development at the July 2014 Cabinet meeting.

Matthew Borland
Policy and Improvement Officer

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