

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29TH JUNE 2018

CARMARTHENSHIRE CYCLING STRATEGY

Purpose:

Consideration of the Carmarthenshire Cycling Strategy and to approve formal adoption.

To consider and comment on the following:

The Carmarthenshire Cycling Strategy

Reasons:

- Ensure we have a clear strategic direction that supports our aspirations to be a national lead in the provision of cycling infrastructure events and development.
- Enhancing our desire to become the cycling hub of Wales.
- Assist in meeting a number of objectives set out in the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013, Welsh Cycling Strategy and Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Hazel Evans

Directorate:
Environment

Name of Head of Service:
S G Pilliner

Report Author:
Thomas Evans

Designations:

Head of Highways &
Transport

Transport Planner -
Strategy & Infrastructure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29TH JUNE 2018

CARMARTHENSHIRE CYCLING STRATEGY

Introduction and Background

The Council has been proactive in supporting and developing cycling over recent years and has a long term vision to become the cycling hub for Wales.

Cycling's popularity continues to grow. 42% of people in the UK own a bicycle and this figure continues to grow. People are also using their bike more and from 2007-2011 19% more miles were made by bicycle.

Cycling presents an opportunity for the County both in terms of leisure, sport and as a more sustainable mode of transport. Cycling can also help stimulate economic activity. Increased levels of cycling help achieve synergies with key goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Welsh Cycling Strategy including: improved health; the environment; prosperity; equality and community cohesion.

The Council also has a statutory obligation under the Active Travel Act (ATA) to:

- Ensure that plans are in place for active travel networks (walking and cycling routes) that connect key places, such as schools and workplaces, to where people live.
- Setting a quality standard so the routes on the network are: safe, comfortable, continuous and direct.
- Requiring promotion of active travel and continuous improvement of the network.

The Strategy ties in with The 5 year plan - Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire - launched on January 8, 2018 by Carmarthenshire County Council Leader Cllr Emlyn Dole which highlights the ambition to make Carmarthenshire the cycling hub of Wales.

Purpose and Key Objectives of the Strategy

The strategy focuses on 3 key themes:

- Infrastructure (which includes flagship projects such as the Towy Valley Path, Carmarthen Velodrome redevelopment and Closed Circuit facility).
- Events and our ambitions to attract events such as the Tour of Britain, Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France
- Pathways and initiatives that need to be developed to promote and develop cycling as an everyday activity in Carmarthenshire.

The benefits of cycling to Carmarthenshire are expanded upon and the strategy contains 11 key objectives for the County that focus around issues of health, education, collaboration, employment and economic activity.

Following a period of comprehensive consultation with key stakeholders and the general public the strategy has been updated and is attached to this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **S. Pilliner** Head of **Highways & Transport**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

In encouraging and increasing opportunities for Active Travel this strategy will assist in meeting all four of the Council's well-being objectives, 'Start Well', 'Live Well', 'Age Well', in a Happy and Healthy Environment supporting the Well-being and Future Generations Act by creating safe routes for walking and cycling for all communities and all ages. By introducing children to Active Travel at a young age the scheme aims to instil lifelong sustainable travel habits, fostering a healthy lifestyle for future generations.

By giving everyone the ability to travel around their local area the scheme will increase community cohesion, having a positive impact on society in the long term.

The strategy will encourage improved access to the workplace for all including more rural communities, benefitting the economy by creating opportunities for employment and training in traditionally hard to reach sectors.

"Making Carmarthenshire the cycling hub of Wales" is a top Corporate priority across all work areas in the Councils 5 year plan, and is further recognised by recent major investment in the new velodrome Carmarthen, our branded routes programme, Closed Circuit track at Pembrey and the Tywi Valley Cycleway.

2. Legal

The production of a cycling strategy assists in conforming to statutory requirements under the Active Travel Act, and further allows a proactive approach to fulfilling our legal obligations to map develop and promote active travel across the County.

3. Finance

The strategy sets out future priorities in relation to infrastructure, events and development, all of which have potential cost/financial implications. The strategy will be used to assist in supporting bids for future funding opportunities and levels of progress will be determined by the funding sources available to the Authority. The strategy itself does not directly commit the Authority financially.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S Pilliner

Head of Highways & Transport

1. Scrutiny Committee: N/A

2. Local Member(s): N/A

3. Community / Town Council: N/A

4. Relevant Partners:

Sustrans, Carmarthenshire Cycle Forum, Cycling Groups and clubs, residents of Carmarthenshire.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations:

Cross divisional project team, Management team, CMT.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:-

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Active Travel Act (Wales 2013) delivery guidance		http://gov.wales/topics/transport/walking-cycling/activetravelact/implementation/?lang=en
Welsh Cycling Strategy		https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/zuvvi/media/articles/welsh_cycling/publications/20140307_Welsh_Cycling_Strategy_v3_FINAL.pdf?c=WA