

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 11 July 2017
Report Subject	Active Travel Consultation
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Report By	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
Strategic / Operational	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 aims to make non-vehicular travel the most attractive option for most people's short journeys. Its purpose is to enable more people to choose active travel rather than using their cars, where it is suitable for them to do so.

The statutory consultation on the Active Travel Draft Integrated Network Map was launched on 3rd July, 2017 on Flintshire County Council's website. This consultation will run for a 12 week period and will close on the 24th September 2017.

A communication programme has been devised to publicise the consultation to ensure as many people as possible can have their say on the proposals outlined.

This report outlines briefly the background to proposals on the Draft Integrated Network Map, how the consultation can be accessed and the programme of consultation events planned.

Recommendations

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| (a) | That Scrutiny notes the consultation programme of events. |
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<u>DRAFT INTEGRATED NETWORK MAP AND SCHEDULE</u>
1.01	The Statutory Guidance for the delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 states how Welsh Government (WG) expect Local Authorities to comply with the requirements within the Act. It also includes details of the prescribed settlement areas within Wales in which the associated requirements of the Act will apply.

1.02	<p>The Act requires Local Authorities in Wales to produce active travel maps for the defined settlement areas and deliver year on year improvements on active travel routes and the active travel facilities within them. It also requires Highway Authorities in Wales to make enhancements to the routes and to consider facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in all new road improvement schemes and to have regard to the needs of walkers and cyclists in a wide range of other Highway Authority and Planning functions. It also requires Welsh Ministers and Local Authorities to promote active travel journeys in exercising their functions under the Act.</p>
1.03	<p>The Act requires two sets of maps to be produced for each settlement area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing active travel route map. 2. The planned future Integrated Network Map (INM). <p>The existing route maps are primarily intended to inform the public of the existing safe and suitable routes for active travel and were submitted to WG for approval in January 2016.</p> <p>The integrated network maps are intended to set out the plans of the Local Authority for the next 15 years and were required to be submitted to WG for approval by 24 September 2017.</p>
1.04	<p>Flintshire County Council submitted its existing active travel route maps to WG in January 2016 and subsequently received approval of their content in August 2016. Details of the maps have now been published on the Council's website.</p>
1.05	<p>The Act requires each Authority to undertake active and effective consultation and engagement in the preparation of their planned future integrated network map which will set out the plans for walking and cycling infrastructure for the next 15 years and will become a basis for future grant funding opportunities.</p>
1.06	<p>Flintshire County Council's draft Integrated Network Map (INM) sets out its plans for improving walking and cycling infrastructure and related facilities over a 15 year plan period. Once approved by Welsh Government this Map will become a basis for future grant funding opportunities.</p>
1.07	<p>A schedule of design proposals for each of the routes depicted on the INM has also been devised and will be publicised during the consultation. The proposals are a mixture of "shovel ready" improvement schemes that can be delivered in the next few years, to more aspirational schemes that are awaiting defined scope. In the schedule the proposals have been categorised into short, medium and long terms proposals.</p>

1.08	The proposals are a mixture of improvements to existing highway infrastructure to comply with the standards set out in the statutory design guidance to new build traffic free paths for Active Travel. It is important to note that a number of scheme proposals will require a mixture of land acquisition, planning consents, licence agreements and traffic orders and will be subject to the relevant landowner negotiations and detailed scheme and legal consultation processes.
1.09	The Active Travel proposals depicted on the INM show routes to employment sites, schools, shopping facilities and other services or facilities that people need to access on a daily basis as the purpose of the Act is to try and encourage more people to travel by foot or by bicycle for their everyday short journeys instead of travelling by car. There are other multiple benefits of encouraging this type of modal shift including improving air quality, reducing congestion and improving health and wellbeing which is a priority in the Well Being of Future Generations Strategy. The consultation process will highlight these benefits and promote physical activity. Many of the proposed routes outlined on the INM will also be suitable for recreational use, such as conversion of disused railway lines and completion of the Dee Coastal Path and comments on these routes will be welcomed during the consultation period.
1.10	The 12 week statutory consultation on the draft Integrated Network Map was launched on 3 rd July 2017 on Flintshire County Council's website under Streets and Travel. The web address is http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Streetscene/Active-Travel-Integrated-Network-Map-Consultation.aspx

2.00	<u>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</u>
2.01	Welsh Government has awarded £10,000 through the Local Transport Fund 2017/18 for development of the integrated network map which covers any costs incurred for consultation events.

3.00	<u>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</u>
3.01	Between March and April Streetscene Officers undertook informal engagement events with Flintshire Disability Forum in Mold, Shotton and Buckley.
3.02	On the 24 th April Sustrans held an Active Travel Journey Planner engagement event in Mold Alun School with the support of Streetscene Officers.
3.03	An informal engagement event was held with the Local Access Forum on 5 th May at Wepre Visitor Centre and the proposals on the integrated network map were received positively.

3.04	Streetscene held Drop-In events for Members and Town and Community Councillors on the 30 th and 31 st May in County Hall.
3.05	A series of consultation events will commence in July through to September 2017 to include Drop In Events at various locations in Flintshire. The consultation will also be promoted through social media and regular press releases advising of Drop In session locations and web link.
3.06	A Communications Plan has been devised to ensure effective communication throughout the consultation period.

4.00	<u>KEY RISKS AND MITIGATION</u>
4.01	Meeting the deadline date for submitting the Active Travel Integrated Network Map and re-submitting the Existing Route Map to Ministers by 3 rd November 2017. Mitigation. Gantt Project Planner has been completed to monitor activities and timescales.

5.00	<u>APPENDICES</u>
5.01	None

6.00	<u>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS</u>
6.01	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/7/contents http://gov.wales/docs/det/policy/141105guidanceen.pdf Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	<u>GLOSSARY</u>
7.01	None