

# Cycling

A vision for the future in Cheshire East



## Executive summary

Cheshire East Council is delighted to launch a new Cycling Strategy for the Borough. Our ambition is to enable more people to cycle safely, more often and with confidence for everyday and leisure journeys.

We will work with partners and local cycling groups to deliver the strategy over the next 10 years. The strategy provides a framework which will shape Council policy and inform the planning and design of our streets, communities and green spaces.

The benefits of increasing the levels of cycling are proven and wide ranging for communities, residents and businesses.

Cycling helps to achieve the Council's wider ambitions as set out in our Corporate Plan; by "making Cheshire East a green and sustainable place", by "enabling people to live well and for longer" and by ensuring "Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy".



## Our vision

To enable more people to cycle safely, more often and with confidence for everyday and leisure journeys

For more information about cycling in Cheshire East visit [travelcheshire.co.uk](http://travelcheshire.co.uk)





## Our objectives

### Objective 1

*Create and maintain safer, attractive, cohesive, direct and adaptable networks and infrastructure*

### Objective 2

*Ensure cycling is integrated with other transport modes, transport networks and new developments*

### Objective 3

*Ensure high quality facilities are in place to support people who cycle and to attract people to live and work here*

### Objective 4

*Use targeted cycle promotion, education and training*

### Objective 5

*Integrate and align policies, procedures and practices to encourage cycling*

### Objective 6

*Deliver cycle-friendly infrastructure in partnership with the community, officers and organisations of Cheshire East*

## Our targets

*This strategy covers the period 2017 – 2027 and sets out an ambitious plan for guiding investment with the following targets:*

### Cycle Journeys

Double the number of people cycling once per week for any purpose in Cheshire East by 2025 from a 2014 baseline (based on Active People Survey).

### Public Perception

Improve public perception of cycling within the Borough by ensuring that satisfaction scores measured yearly by the Council are improving over time on an upward trend (based on the Members Highway Satisfaction Survey).

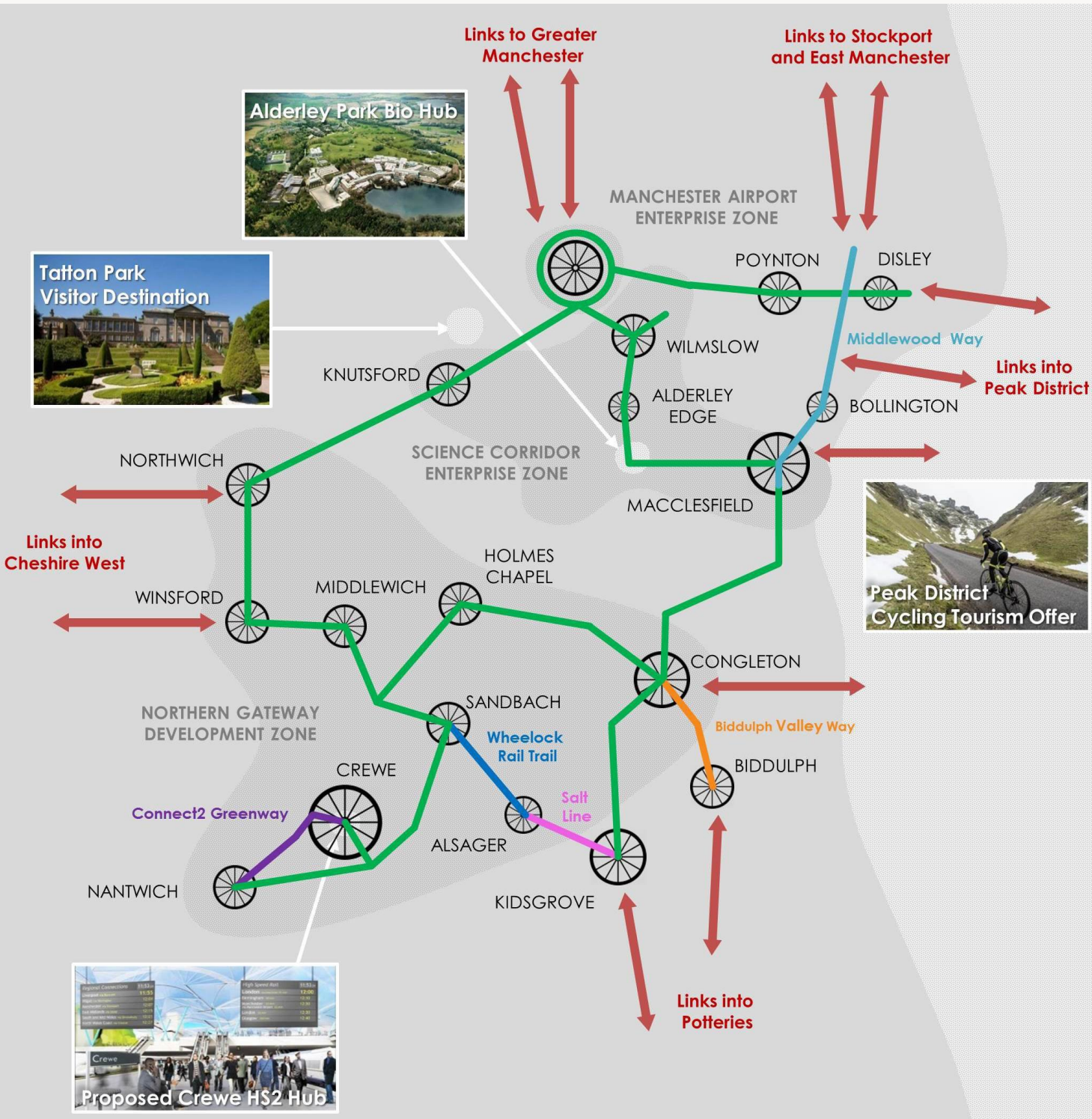


# Our plan: linking people and places

Our plan will deliver a cycle-friendly network of key routes, connecting people and places.

This network will link with local routes in order to connect residents and visitors to jobs, skills, schools, services and leisure opportunities.

Our key routes network is illustrated below:





# Our commitment & funding

To deliver our strategy, funding will be needed from a wide range of sources. Even though we live in challenging times, we commit to seek every opportunity to source funding so the network of cycle routes can continue to grow.

Below are the current funding streams and commitments for improving the cycle network in the Borough:

● **Local Transport Plan funding:** a yearly commitment from the Council to fund small scale improvements to the cycle network.

● **Bidding for external funding:** we will continue bidding for all available external opportunities. Our recent successes include:

- **Local Sustainable Transport Funding:** £3.5 million for 3 years (2012-15)

- **Sustainable Travel Transition Year:** £350,000 for 9 months (2016-17)

- **Local Growth Fund:** securing a share of £5 million allocated to Cheshire & Warrington to improve cycle routes which link to key housing and employment development sites

● **Council funding:** funding of £500,000 from the Council budget has been agreed to match funding secured through the Local Growth Fund.

● **Developer funding:** we will continue securing developer funding contributions to improve local cycle routes. For example, the proposed Sydney Road bridge widening scheme includes cycling facilities which will enable a north / south cycle route in Crewe.

● **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** The Council is currently working to develop a CIL policy. Funding will be used to provide infrastructure identified in the Local Plan Strategy, including for cycling.



● **Network Rail:** there is a commitment from Network Rail to construct cycle facilities alongside the proposed rail replacement bridge on the A530 at Leighton, Crewe.

● **Bikeability:** we have secured a grant from the Department for Transport of £612,445 up to March 2020 to fund Bikeability cycle training for children for Levels 1, 2 & 3 and Bikeability Plus Modules.

● **Cheshire East Public Health:** working jointly with NHS commissioners and providers to deliver promotional programmes for cycling.

# Delivery: making it happen

Our strategy includes a wide range of actions to achieve our vision for cycling in the Borough.

## Cycle networks

Improve cycle networks will be achieved through:

● Securing external funding from sources such as the Local Growth Fund and using Council funds such as the Local Transport Plan.

● New roads in Cheshire East will include high quality facilities that will benefit people cycling and walking.

● Including key cycle routes within the Council's Local Plan Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

● Planning for an integrated transport system that encourages a shift away from car to public transport, cycling and walking.

● Focusing on Cheshire East Council's adopted principles on **Quality of Place** to enhance the quality of our built and natural environment, quality of life and the vibrancy of the area.

## Cycle-Proofing Toolkit

We have developed this easy reference checklist for developers, consultants and Cheshire East officers involved in the planning and design of new developments to provide improved routes and facilities for cycling.

## Maintenance Programme

We will continue maintaining all roads and cycle routes to the level recommended by the Department for Transport. We will address safety related defects on footways and shared paths.

## Collaboration & Partnership Working

A range of projects to engage people in cycling will be delivered through partnerships across Council departments and with external organisations, Central Government and voluntary bodies. These partnerships will be strengthened



through regular consultation and engagement.

## Tourism

We will exploit leisure, marketing and event opportunities to promote our strong cycling offer – for example, hosting a stage of the Tour of Britain.

## Schools & businesses

We will work with schools and businesses to encourage them to support children and employees to walk or cycle to work or school.