

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	14 th March 2017
Report of:	Frank Jordan, Executive Director – Place
Subject/Title:	Notice of Motion – Space for Cycling
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Brown, Highways & infrastructure Portfolio Holder

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider and respond to the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor S Corcoran and seconded by Councillor H Murray at the Council meeting on 15 December 2016 and referred to Cabinet for consideration
- 1.2. *“This Council supports the Space for Cycling process promoted by Cycling UK and commits to providing the funding to implement its cycling policy effectively.”*

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Cabinet is recommended to support the motion (as stated in 1.2 above) noting that the aims of the ‘Space for Cycling’ campaign are consistent with the objectives of the new Cheshire East Council Cycling Strategy, which is being presented, in full, to Cabinet today for adoption.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. The option of not agreeing the motion was considered. As the aims of the ‘Space for Cycling’ campaign align well with the objectives of the Cycling Strategy, the opportunity to support a national campaign will demonstrate commitment to Cheshire East’s vision for cycling – “to enable more people to cycle safer, more often and with confidence for everyday and leisure journeys.” Any decision not to support Space for Cycling could be perceived as indicating a lack of commitment to the Council’s new Cycling Strategy. Therefore this option is not recommended.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. Space for Cycling is a national campaign promoted by Cycling UK with the aim to create conditions for far greater participation in cycling as a means of travel. They have devised a three-point plan for councils to sign up to:
 - **Plan** – Plan a full network of cycle-friendly routes that allow people of all ages and abilities to cycle
 - **Invest** – Actively seek the funding to implement the network and invest a minimum of 5% of the local transport budget in cycling
 - **Build** – Build the network using the most up-to-date high quality design standards
- 4.2. The new Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East contains very similar aims and objectives to those outlined by Cycling UK in their Space for Cycling Campaign. The similarities of the two strategies are presented below
- 4.3. **Plan:** The cycling strategy outlines that effective cycle networks are critical to the successful development of a 'cycle friendly environment'. The strategy sets out an ambitious vision for high quality strategic cycle routes which will provide the spine of a network with connects communities. The network, in conjunction with local routes, will connect residents and visitors alike to jobs, skills, schools, services and leisure opportunities.
- 4.4. The strategy also includes an aspirational route map which has been developed through consultation workshops with local cycling community groups across the borough. Local 'Town Cycling Plans' are also being developed by local cycling groups who have an in-depth knowledge and expertise of their area. The Council are offering support and reviewing function to ensure these plans are robust and aligned with wider policies.
- 4.5. **Invest:** The cycling strategy acknowledges that funding is key to achieving a step change in cycling. Main funding sources comprise, Local Transport Plan Budget, Local Growth Fund, developer contributions and ad hoc dedicated funding from the Department of Transport schemes.
- 4.6. The funding streams for cycling in Cheshire East in 17 / 18 comprise:
 - 4.6.1. The Local Transport Plan has allocated 8.5% of the integrated transport block towards Active Travel.
 - 4.6.2. Cheshire East has secured a share of £5 million allocated to Cheshire & Warrington to improve cycle routes which link key housing and employment development sites
 - 4.6.3. Council funding of £500,000 has been arranged to match funding secured through Local Growth Fund.

4.6.4. Bikeability has secured a grant of £612,445 up to March 2020.

4.7. **Build:** The Cycling Strategy sets out key priorities and actions for creating high quality cycle routes. High quality means that infrastructure addresses the five main requirements as set out in the Sustrans Design Manual, these being; Cohesion, Directness, Safety, Comfort and Attractiveness.

4.8. The Cycling Strategy also provides a 'cycle-proofing tool-kit which is an easy reference checklist for developers, consultants and officers involved in the planning, design and auditing of new developments to provide improved environment for cycling

5. Background/Chronology

5.1. At Council, on 15 December 2016, Cllr Sam Corcoran proposed a motion that was seconded by Councillor H Murray that; "this Council supports the Space for Cycling process promoted by Cycling UK and commits to providing the funding to implement its cycling policy effectively." It was resolved that the motion stand referred to Cabinet.

5.2. The new Cheshire East Cycling Strategy is to be reported to Cabinet for approval at the meeting on 14th March 2017. Members are referred to the published papers for this meeting as background information related to this motion.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1. All Cheshire East Wards.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy Implications

7.1.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report.

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report.

7.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

7.4. Equality Implications

7.4.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

7.5. Rural Community Implications

7.5.1 As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

7.6. Human Resources Implications

7.6.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report.

7.7. Public Health Implications

7.7.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

7.8.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

8. Risk Management

8.1. As outlined in the Cycling Strategy for Cheshire East report

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

9.1. Link to the campaign for Space for Cycling

http://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/space_for_cycling_guide_for_decision_makers.pdf

10. Contact Information

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