

CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Reports Cover Sheet

Title of Report:	Active Travel Strategy and Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)
Report Reference Number	
Date of meeting:	1 July 2025
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Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Phil Cresswell

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Why is the report being brought to the board?	The report informs the board about the work undertaken to develop an Active Travel Strategy and LCWIPs and provides advance notice of a consultation which will launch in July 2025. There is an opportunity for the board to help shape the strategic direction for active travel and inform and influence the delivery plans.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategic Outcomes this report relates to?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire East is a place that supports good health and wellbeing for everyone <input type="checkbox"/> Our children and young people experience good physical and emotional health and wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> The mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East is improved <input type="checkbox"/> That more people live and age well, remaining independent; and that their lives end with peace and dignity in their chosen place <input type="checkbox"/> <p>All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	<p>Equality and Fairness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Accessibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Integration <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Quality <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All of the above <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	To respond to the consultation and share the materials with partners and professional networks to ensure that the views of the health sector are fully considered and incorporated wherever possible.		

Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	Highways and Transport Committee – 19 June 2025
Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?	An 8-week consultation will launch in July 2025 and the link to the consultation materials will be circulated to board.
If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.	Ensuring the views of the health sector are full considered and incorporated, wherever possible.

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Council are developing an Active Travel Strategy (see Appendix 1) and series of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) and are keen to engage with the health sector as part of an 8-week consultation launching in July 2025. The strategy seeks to create and encourage opportunities to build active travel into everyday lives which will positively impact health and wellbeing outcomes in the borough.
- 1.2 The Council's Highways and Transport Committee are responsible for developing policies and making decisions on matters relating to highways and transport. The committee considered a report on the Active Travel Strategy and LCWIPs at its meeting on 19 June and approved the launch of stakeholder and public consultation.
- 1.3 Active travel contributes to the Cheshire East Plan aims of 'improving health and well-being' and 'unlocking prosperity for all'. The Health and Wellbeing Board are invited to help to shape the strategy and ensure alignment with broader strategic outcomes relating to health and wellbeing.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the development of the Active Travel Strategy (see Appendix 1) and Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) and respond to the forthcoming consultation to help shape the strategic direction of active travel in Cheshire East.
- 2.2 Support the promotion of the consultation and encourage health sector partners and their professional networks to respond to the consultation to inform and influence the plans.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Regular walking and cycling helps people meet the recommended physical activity targets, improves physical and mental health, whilst preventing and reducing the risks of poor health and premature death. There is strong evidence that regular participation in active

travel contributes positively to both physical and mental health and wellbeing. The delivery of the strategy will help to reduce health inequality across the borough.

- 3.2 The consultation will take place at a formative stage and time for consideration and response will be given to feedback. The consultation will ensure that the Council will have robust plans in place to prioritise the future active travel network in line with potential future funding opportunities.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategic Outcomes

- 4.1 Encouraging active travel choices supports all four strategic outcomes of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Population of Cheshire East 2023-28:
- 1) Cheshire East is a place that supports good health and wellbeing for everyone
 - 2) Our children and young people experience good physical and emotional health and wellbeing
 - 3) The mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East is improved
 - 4) That more people live and age well, remaining independent; and that their lives end with peace and dignity in their chosen place

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The Cheshire East Plan 2025-29 sets out ambitions and commitments for delivering health improvement, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and environmental improvement. A key element of achieving these ambitions is delivering investment in transport infrastructure that promotes active travel. A step change in levels of walking and cycling will support wider strategic priorities.
- 5.2 The existing Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 was prepared pre-pandemic, and prior to many policy and guidance changes including: Gear Change (2020), the Transport Decarbonisation Plan (2021) and Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2 (2022), as well as new cycle infrastructure design guidance.
- 5.3 The Cycling Strategy focused on a single mode only, without consideration of the interfaces with walking and wheeling, which have subsequently been emphasised in national policy. The government considers 'active modes' (walking, wheeling and cycling) holistically.
- 5.4 Developing a new strategy and infrastructure plans is a key part of demonstrating our ambition and commitment, with clear recognition that increasing levels of active travel supports the delivery of wider corporate priorities, particularly health improvement and local action to tackle the climate change emergency.
- 5.5 The draft vision for the Active Travel Strategy is "*A borough where walking, wheeling and cycling are the preferred option for short journeys, achieved through a connected, safe and accessible network that supports a healthy Cheshire East.*" The strategy is framed around three clear themes: create, culture and collaborate.

- 5.6 It is the intention for a succinct yet ambitious strategy that provides a clear strategic direction. Targets have been identified to show commitment both locally and nationally and will support the government's ambition for 50% of all journeys in towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled.
- 5.7 The draft Active Travel Strategy sets out clear actions, including development of specific infrastructure plans and supporting policies to deliver the wider aims. The strategy provides the overarching vision and framework that sets the direction for these more specific policies.
- 5.8 The Department for Transport (DfT) guidance states that 'whilst the preparation of LCWIPs is non-mandatory, local authorities who have plans will be well placed to make the case for future official investment'. LCWIPs provide strong evidence to support future funding from DfT, Active Travel England, Sustrans and other external funding bodies, as well as through the Local Transport Plan allocations and developer contributions from the planning process.
- 5.9 The Council has LCWIPs for Crewe, Congleton, Macclesfield and Wilmslow which were adopted in March 2021 and remain current and valid. These four areas were selected following an evidence-based review, which identified them as having the highest potential in the borough to increase walking and cycling.
- 5.10 LCWIPs have now been prepared for the remaining 7 towns, which complement the emerging strategy and support the delivery of the "create" theme to develop high quality active travel infrastructure at key locations across the borough.
- Alsager
 - Handforth
 - Knutsford
 - Middlewich
 - Nantwich
 - Poynton
 - Sandbach
- 5.11 All key towns with over 10,000 residents are now covered by an LCWIP, which have identified a prioritised programme of potential active travel routes and infrastructure improvements for future investment. The improvements are evidence-based and take account of the volumes of cycling and pedestrian movements in Cheshire East, and the potential to increase these mode shares to achieve wider strategic outcomes.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:
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