
Meeting of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee
– 27th March 2023

Report of the Interim Director of Environment

Environment Directorate - Cycling Provision in Dudley

Purpose

1. To present the current progress report on all matters associated with Cycling provision across Dudley Borough.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Climate Change & Environment Scrutiny Committee review the contents of this report and that any identified issues are referred to the relevant Cabinet Member and Service Director to feedback and inform future decisions.

Background

3. This report is intended to provide members of this Committee with an update in relation to the Cycling provision in Dudley alongside the development of future strategy and infrastructure planning.

Dudley's Cycle Network Update

4. Until recently, the majority of investment in cycle infrastructure within Dudley borough has been focussed on off road routes generally through parks, open spaces and canal towpaths, with on road (segregated) facilities being limited in scale and generally incorporated into other highway schemes when opportunities arise.

5. During the Covid pandemic and in particular as part of Covid recovery the Government has placed an increasing emphasis on investment and provision of active travel measures. This is further demonstrated by the creation of Active Travel England, updated design guidance on Cycling and specific national funding streams, such as the Active Travel Fund.
6. Improving infrastructure and wider support for active travel clearly supports the Council's overall Transport aims, our regeneration and sustainable growth aspirations, the Climate Emergency response and also helps achieve better public health outcomes.
7. As part of the development of the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan, Dudley are keen to develop specific transport proposals for the borough and the provision of new and improved cycle infrastructure will be a key component of that.
8. Funding has already been secured and work has already started on the development, design and delivery of new cycle routes on a number of key corridors across the borough, including the A456, A4123, A461, A4101 and A459. In addition, work is also underway to start looking at how we can improve walk and cycle connectivity to our town centres with the aim to embed these ideas into future master plans and strategies. Clearly, in order to retrofit high quality cycling infrastructure (to the required Department of Transport design standards) within Dudley constrained highway network provides a number of challenges which need to be worked through with Ward Members and residents as part of the design and consultation processes.
9. Alongside infrastructure improvements the Council continue to work with schools and communities on a programme of training and behaviour change activity and are keen to expand this work as part of the overall strategy moving forward.
10. Please note further information on this section and the information set out above will be given via a presentation in committee by Nick McGurk, Head of Transport and Highways.

Finance

11. There are no direct financial implications in receiving this report.



Law

12. There are no direct law implications in receiving this report.

Risk Management

13. There are no direct risks associated in receiving this report.

Equality Impact

14. There are no special considerations to be made with regard to equality and diversity in noting and receiving this report.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

15. There are no specific direct human resource issues in receiving this report.

Commercial/Procurement

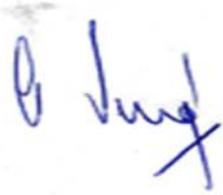
16. There is no direct procurement / commercial impact.

Environment/Climate Change

17. This report delivers on a number of key priorities on Climate Change and reducing emissions across the Borough.
18. The outputs of this progress report shall provide the necessary evidence/information to inform the Council's action on Climate Emergency in line with the Council's ambition to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.
19. It builds on Dudley's 'Forging a Future for All' objectives:
1. Climate commitment, creating a sustainable borough on its way to net zero carbon emissions, improved air quality, and wider health benefits.
 2. Creates a pathway for sustainable travel
 3. Creates an evidence base for likely changes in policy and planning requirements.

Council Priorities/ Projects

20. This report refers to multiple council priorities.



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Appendices

None