

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 27th May 2022

From: Angela Jones, Executive Director, Economy and Infrastructure

PENRITH LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Penrith.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *By preparing an LCWIP for Penrith and working to achieve the delivery of the findings, the Council will be meeting the following Council Plan priorities:*

- *To safeguard children, and ensure that Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up*
- *To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally*
- *To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty*
- *To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment*
- *To provide safe and well-maintained roads and an effective transport network*
- *To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs*
- *To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members approve the LCWIP for Penrith as attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Members delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Committee to make any necessary minor amendments to the Penrith LCWIP prior to its publication.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (2022 – 2037) sets out the strategy for Active Travel in Cumbria and the development of LCWIPs are a key part of this. The Council has committed to the development of a series of LCWIPs. The methodology for LCWIPs has been developed by the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the national Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. DfT funding for local cycling and walking schemes will be dependent upon the schemes inclusion in a LCWIP, with infrastructure to be designed in line with the DfT Cycle Infrastructure Design guide issued in July 2020.
- 4.2 The LCWIP for Penrith, outlines the network of key cycling and walking routes in the district. The focus of the Penrith LCWIP is the improvement of routes used for everyday shorter journeys, such as to work, school or the shops. It aims to identify good quality infrastructure that connects the places people need to get to, in a coherent, direct, safe and attractive way.
- 4.3 Recognising that it is not always possible to connect everywhere and that funding for delivery needs to be secured, the Penrith LCWIP focuses on the routes where the most benefits can be realised. Support for walking and cycling infrastructure usually increases further once it is built and people are using it. Over time these priorities can be built on to deliver a more extensive network to encourage and support a step change in the number of people cycling and walking.
- 4.4 The Penrith LCWIP is a not a funded plan however, having an LCWIP in place will put the Council in the best possible position to secure future funding for the delivery of improvements.
- 4.5 Public consultation on the draft LCWIP proposals was undertaken in July and August 2021. During this consultation the draft priority network for cycling was presented. Feedback was sought on the existing barriers to cycling and walking and what improvements could be made to encourage more everyday short journeys to be undertaken by active travel. The consultation received a total of 209 questionnaire responses. Through the consultation it was established that 91% of respondents welcomed more money being spent on cycling and walking in Penrith and 57% felt the proposals in the Penrith LCWIP would encourage them to cycle or walk more often.

- 4.6 A second round of public consultation took place in February 2022, presenting the updated priority cycling and walking networks reflecting the feedback received in the first consultation. 58 responses were received, showing the same strong desire for future investment in cycling and walking infrastructure.
- 4.7 The Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2022 – 2037) is included in Appendix 1.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 That Members approve the Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- 5.2 That Members approve the Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan with recommended changes.
- 5.3 That Members do not approve the Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations within this document are within the remit of Committee and are also consistent with Part 3(A) 12 of the Constitution in relation to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure’s functions.
- 7.2 It appears that appropriate consultation has been conducted.
- 7.3 There are no immediate or obvious issues of a legal nature flowing from the recommendations contained in this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Penrith LCWIP provides a prioritised investment plan for cycling and walking in Penrith area over the next 15 years.
- 8.2 The LCWIP considers the overlaps and synergies with other plans, schemes and strategies. This means the network priorities will be reviewed and updated periodically, particularly if there are any significant changes in local circumstances, such as the publication of new policies or strategies, new development sites, if funding bids are successful and as walking and cycling networks mature and expand.

- 8.3 The LCWIP is a live document that will be regularly reviewed to ensure the most appropriate routes for cycling and walking are identified and prioritised for future delivery.

Angela Jones
Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure

12th May 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2022 - 2037)

Electoral Division(s): All in Penrith

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The County Council Committee for Eden approved a recommendation for £9,388 to allow the urgent development of a Penrith LCWIP on 28th September 2020.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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