

Committee(s): Community and Health Committee	Date: 6 December 2021
Subject: Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan	Wards Affected: ALL
Report of: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager (Communities, Leisure and Health)	Public
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Summary

Based on the success of the results of neighbouring boroughs with large pots of funding from Department of Transport, Essex County Council has recommended that Brentwood Borough Council prepare and publish a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan as soon as possible, to be ahead of other districts and be able to access national funding pots.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

R1. Agree that officers to prepare a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LWCIP) for the borough with the help of Essex County Council and specialist consultants.

R2. To agree to part-fund the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan to the sum of £5,000 from Brentwood Borough Council funds.

R3. To promote Active travel across the borough with Health and Wellbeing at the forefront.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. Brentwood Borough Council is currently working with Essex County Council (ECC) on Active Travel planning. To look at the whole borough the next step would be to complete a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). If the Council agrees to go ahead then this work would commence in January 2022 and take about seven months to complete.
2. Although there is no guarantee after completing the LCWIP, the completed plan would open funding pots that the Council could apply for. The success rate at

present in Essex is high and neighbouring Basildon Borough Council has received a significant investment from the Department for Transport as a result of their LCWIP. ECC Active Travel team are confident that the LCWIP would put Brentwood in a very strong position for millions of pounds worth of investment.

3. ECC support this work, strongly encouraging Brentwood Borough Council to undertake a LCWIP and also suggest that local bus service improvements are considered as part of this.

What is a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan?

4. LCWIPs are a new strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level, as set out in the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. They enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks, ideally over a 10-year period, and form a vital part of the Government's strategy to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle.
5. The key outputs of LCWIPs are:
 - a) A local network plan for walking and cycling which identifies preferred routes and core zones for further development;
 - b) A prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment; and
 - c) A report which sets out the underlying analysis carried out and provides a narrative which supports the identified improvements and network.
6. By taking a strategic approach to improving conditions for cycling and walking, LCWIPs will assist local authorities to:
 - a) Identify cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for future investment in the short, medium and long term;
 - b) Ensure that consideration is given to cycling and walking within both local planning and transport policies and strategies; and
 - c) Make the case for future major investment for walking and cycling infrastructure.
7. LCWIPs enable the prioritisation of street improvements based upon a firm evidence base of where people are most likely to walk and cycle. This will enable the development of both coherent walking and cycling networks. The prioritisation will be divided into tranches over the next 10-years, for example quick wins and short-term, medium-term and long-term plans. This will then enable funding packages to be developed to implement the schemes. For example, funding from the Department for Transport, South Essex Local

Enterprise Partnership (LEP), local or ECC funding and developer contributions.

8. The Council also supports Active Travel and is already working with ECC and other external bodies to improve some areas of central Brentwood, which have the greatest need for improvement.

Reasons for recommendation

9. The LCWIP for Brentwood will support the Council's objectives to create healthier communities. It supports the Government's sustainable travel objectives. With greater take up it should help reduce congestion in the borough with more people walking and cycling. The LCWIP will also support Brentwood's Health and Wellbeing Board objectives with residents becoming more active and improving their health and wellbeing.

Consultation

10. Consultation is not required at this stage. Voluntary partners, service users and stakeholders will be consulted as part of preparing the LCWIP. In addition, the Council will work with partner organisations, such as ECC.

References to Corporate Strategy

11. The LCWIP for Brentwood supports several workstreams in the Council's Corporate Strategy, such as:
 - a) Growing our economy: support and promote major infrastructure improvements and a green agenda;
 - b) Protecting our environment: low emission zones around schools; and
 - c) Developing our communities: encouraging residents to lead active, healthy and fulfilling lifestyles.
12. The plan supports a number of priorities under the Developing our Communities strand, including supporting residents to make healthier lifestyle choices through active travel.
13. The plan also supports efforts to provide Health Impact Assessments (HIA) from proposed development as required by the emerging Local Development Plan and joint work with the Planning Policy Team.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Director of Corporate Resources
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14. The total cost of producing the LCWIP would be no more than £35,000, of which it is proposed that the Council contribute £5,000, from existing budgets ECC will fund £20,000 and the Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board will fund the remaining £10,000. This budget requirement has been identified as part of ongoing work with these partners.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer

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15. At this stage there are no legal implications any future work requiring legal input in relation to any agreements will be referred to the legal department.

Economic Implications

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16. The associated funding likely to be received as a result of adopting a LCWIP will contribute towards investment in active travel infrastructure and increase the number of people choosing to walk or cycle. This could have indirect economic benefits as part of improving environmental quality and reducing traffic congestion, for example, which would help contribute to a better place to live, work and visit.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Name/Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager (Communities, Leisure and Health)

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17. In following the LCWIP process, the Council will need to consider its obligation to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010. The Brentwood LCWIP should reflect the needs of all.

Health & Wellbeing Implications

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18. This report is very proactive in terms of health and wellbeing for local residents and making roads, cycling and walking infrastructure more fit for the future of Active Travel purposes.

Other Implications

None

Background Papers

None

Appendices to this report

None