

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

15 February 2011

Item 5 – Public Participation

Statement from Dr J T Walker, Chair of COGS (Cycling Opportunities Group, Salisbury) in respect of the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (Item No. 10)

COGS are disappointed that the Local Transport Plan being presented to Cabinet considers cycle networks to be only a 'medium' priority for investment.

We note that the consultation responses in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet (paras 11 – 28) contain numerous references to responses suggesting the priority assigned to cycling should be increased – e.g.

- “Themes that emerge through the written responses associated with these questions include that ... more emphasis should be given to sustainable transport measures such as cycling, walking, passenger rail and smarter choices” [para 16]
- “The responses to question 4 on the proposed approaches to the national transport goals include the following suggestions: Re-prioritise the user hierarchy on many roads towards pedestrians and cyclists.” [para 17]
- The comments made at the workshops on the overall strategy included that: ... Cycle routes need to be implemented between towns and villages as well as in them. [Para 18]
- In terms of investment priorities, a clear consensus emerged through the workshops on a number of options: • High(er) priority:cycle networks;’ [para 19]

The rationale for ignoring the views of consultees and leaving cycle networks as only medium priority is not adequately justified. Indeed, the LTP itself makes many statements which strongly support cycling – e.g. “Research shows that increased walking and cycling have the potential to be low cost,

high value measures that produce a number of benefits including: improvements in people's health and fitness, improved mental health and reduced stress levels, less traffic congestion, an improved quality of life for communities, reduced air pollution and CO2 emissions, the provision of affordable and accessible travel options for nearly all groups of people, reduced energy dependence." [para 6.65]

Both School Travel Plans and the Sustainable transport packages which are being developed for Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Trowbridge are deemed to be high priority for investment, and cycling has a key role to play in both these areas. We hope therefore that Wiltshire's Local Transport Plan will be amended to make it clear that cycle networks will be considered a high priority for investment.