

Wiltshire Council

Council

21 July 2020

Notice of Motion No.21 – Walking and Cycling

From Councillors Brian Mathew and Graham Ross Henning

Members Briefing Note

Note on Proposal 1

Policies are already in place to ensure that walking and cycling carry a high priority across the Council's activities, reflected in the Business Plan, Local Transport Plan and Core Strategy.

MHCLG's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ sets out Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied.

In the context of new development, para 110 of NPPF establishes the priority for sustainable travel, requiring that applications for development should:

- a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;
- b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;
- c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;
- d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and
- e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.

Note on Proposal 2

The Leader has very recently made changes to the council's Cabinet and Portfolio Holders to align with the recovery structure now being put in place within Wiltshire Council following COVID-19.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

Note on Proposal 3

Wiltshire Council currently delivers a programme of Bikeability training, predominantly in primary schools, with a focus on children in Year 6 to prepare them for independent travel and transition to secondary school. Over 2000 children are trained in a normal year.

The Bikeability Trust, who manage the national scheme on behalf of the Department for Transport have recently announced the development of further Bikeability modules aimed at adults and families, which we are keen to deliver in Wiltshire. The council is awaiting the publication of the training delivery guidance and details of the Bikeability grant funding scheme to cover these modules.

The council is also working to expand the local team of qualified Bikeability instructors in order to increase our capacity to deliver training in Wiltshire, especially to meet the Government's recently announced ambition to offer Bikeability to every child. There is, however, a national shortage of qualified instructors and the training and induction of new instructors to enable them to deliver high quality training to the National Standards requires time. Instructor training centres are only just beginning to reopen, and newly qualified instructors are required to gain experience working alongside others before they can work independently.

COVID restrictions, including the closure of schools have meant that the training programme has been on hold since March, and restrictions on numbers and training procedures will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future to meet distancing and hygiene requirements. This will, of course have a significant impact on the delivery of training for both trainee riders and new instructors.

Note on Proposal 4

The Council hosts the 'Connecting Wiltshire' website², providing digital access to footpath and cycle route maps for the whole county. Any omissions can be reported to the Council.

Note on Proposal 5

- a) The Council's Integrated Transport Block Programme offers an annual opportunity for cycle parking schemes to be funded.
- b) Police have no current plans to use these cameras – awaiting Home Office approval for enforcement purposes
- c) Policy is in place to allow consideration of 20mph speed limits, administered through the CATG system
- d) The Council is happy to consider incorporation of dual/cycle use within pedestrianised areas on a case by case basis.

² <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/>