

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN</b>
<b>Meeting date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>
<b>From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure</b>

## **LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR PENRITH**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1** *The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the progress on the production of a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Penrith and to seek a contribution from Cumbria County Council Local Committee for Eden towards the programme.*

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

*By adopting the recommendation to produce a 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 the Eden Local Committee agree that the sum of £9,388.00 be allocated from the Area Planning budget to allow the development of a Penrith LCWIP.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Cumbria County Council endorsed the Cumbria Cycling Strategy in 2017, together with Cumbria's district councils, national parks, cycling bodies and highways partners.

4.2 The Cumbria Cycling Strategy sets the context for the development of cycling infrastructure in Cumbria. The strategy has four objectives:

- Promoting cycling as part of healthy lifestyle.
- Enabling cycling to support the Cumbrian economy.
- Promoting Cumbria as an excellent place to cycle.
- Improving the cycling infrastructure to enable more cycling.

4.3 Cumbria County Council has committed to being the lead partner on the fourth objective to improve the cycling infrastructure. Improving the infrastructure is key to enabling the other three objectives. It is therefore proposed to give consideration to the development of series of LCWIPs and to identify schemes that will help achieve the objectives of the strategy.

4.4 Initially, the Council focused on asking local representatives and stakeholders for their ambition for cycling and walking in their area, with workshops held in Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith, Whitehaven and Workington, with the Penrith workshop being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

4.5 The workshop was well attended by members and officers of Cumbria County Council, Penrith Town Council, national and local cycling groups and concluded that further work should be undertaken to develop consensus for development of a Penrith LCWIP.

4.6 The LCWIP programme is considered important to the future recovery of the Cumbrian economy once the Covid-19 restrictions eased later in the year.

4.7 Cumbria County Council tendered for consultancy support for the production of LCWIPs, appointing WSP in May 2020.

4.8 After securing local funding, work on preparing the first LCWIP in the programme began in Barrow-in-Furness as phase one of the commission.

4.9 The cost for a LCWIP for Penrith to be produced by WSP is £23,775, with a start in October 2020 it should be completed in April 2021.

4.10 Discussions have been held with Eden District Council (EDC) and the Cumbria LEP to secure funding for the Penrith LCWIP, Cumbria LEP are

providing £5,000 while EDC are considering the matter with a suggest even split of balance of £9,388 per authority.

- 4.11 The cost of the Penrith LCWIP is less than that of the other Cumbrian LCWIPs and reflects the work already undertaken in the Penrith Parking and Movement Study.
- 4.12 Prior to the Covid-19 emergency the Government had announced a £2 billion walking and cycling programme, confirmed in July 2020 with the publication of the 'Gear Change' programme.
- 4.13 Production on an LCWIP is a requirement to access this funding stream.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 To deliver an LCWIP for Penrith, a funding allocation of £9,388, supporting the £9,388 requested contribution from EDC, and £5,000 contribution from the Cumbria LEP, should be considered by the Eden Local Committee.
- 5.2 Should the requested funding not be secured from EDC, the Penrith LCWIP would not be produced in the financial year 2020/21 while alternative funding opportunities are explored.
- 5.3 Should the Local Committee not wish to proceed with a Penrith LCWIP, no funding would be required.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 If the recommendation in section 3 of this report is approved, the Area Planning unallocated resources will reduce by £9,388 from £41,207 to £31,819, assuming the recommendations in the Area Planning report on this agenda are agreed.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed decision falls within the remit of the Local Committee in this instance in accordance with the Constitution as detailed below:
- 7.2 5.1(b) – the Local Committee is able to liaise with other bodies on delivery of services in the area, to seek to co-ordinate planned activities and to improve services for the residents of the area by working together as effectively as possible.
- 7.3 5.1.2(d) – [A function of the Local Committee is] to approve applications for grants from the Local Committee's budgets for amounts **exceeding £5,000** in line with the policy.
- 7.4 Subject to a decision to approve an application, 5.1.2(e) allows the Local Committee to review and evaluate grants awarded from the Local Committee's budget.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 A LCWIP for Penrith will produce a comprehensive network plan for walking and cycling in the town for the next ten years.
- 8.2 The completed LCWIP can be used to support funding bids to central government for inward investment and aid the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 8.3 It is recommended that the local committee support the recommendation.

**Angela Jones**  
**Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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## APPENDICES

### *No Appendices*

Electoral Division(s): All Penrith Town Divisions

Executive Decision 

		No
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Key Decision 

		No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan? 

		N/A*
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency? 

		No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained? 

		N/A*
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?  
If so, give details below. 

		No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken? 

		N/A*
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken? 

		N/A*
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***N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.***

## REPORT AUTHOR

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