

**RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
ROED 2232**



Decision taken by individual Officer

Rushmoor Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Portfolio Holder Planning and Economy, Cllr Newell in consultation with Tim Mills, Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

To respond to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation which Rushmoor Borough Council is jointly working on with Hampshire County Council.

The response confirms Rushmoor Borough Council's commitment to the project in principle including the proposal to establish five core walking zones and 13 primary cycling routes. It recommends that the plan integrates better with Surrey and neighbouring districts and that it also includes non-physical projects to encourage people to cycle who have not previously done so.

This response broadly encompasses broadly the feedback from the 17 members who attended a briefing on 1 August.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

30 August 2022

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

One member at the briefing suggested that giving priority to cyclists would be at the expense of other road users, including motorists and motor cyclists.

The desire to prioritise cyclists and walkers over other road users is wholly consistent with the council's declaration of a climate emergency and the built-up nature of the borough where there are ample opportunities to increase the number of trips carried out by sustainable means of transport. It would be meaningless to promote a cycling plan that did not give cyclists safer chances to cycle in Rushmoor.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

None.

Decision maker

Signed: _____
Economy

Cllr Adrian Newell, Portfolio Holder, Planning and

In consultation with

Signed: _____
Strategic Housing

Tim Mills, Head of Economy, Planning and

Please send completed form to Chris Todd



Your reference

Contact Vincent Maher

Our reference DTC/HCC/ LCWIP

Telephone 01252 398733

Mr Casper van Winkelen/
Mr Dominic McGrath
Strategic Transport Team
Hampshire County Council

Email vincent.maher@rushmoor.gov.uk

Date 30 August 2022

Via email

strategic.transport@hants.gov.uk

Dear Casper and Dominic

Rushmoor LCWIP

I am writing to set out Rushmoor's response to the LCWIP.

This response only covers the principle of the plan and the feedback from elected members following the presentation on 1 August. Casper will be aware that some Rushmoor members and other local groups have other detailed comments on the routes. I will forward any comments that come to my team directly to him.

Rushmoor Borough Council is committed to working with the county to deliver a meaningful increase in the number of trips taken on foot and by bicycle locally through the LCWIP and other activities such as the review of our Local Plan where we have a legal duty to cooperate with one another. Active Travel England seeks to secure a step change in walking and cycling in urban areas both as an enforcer of the tasks the county council does in its role as the highway authority as well as influencing our role as the local planning authority in determining major planning applications. I am pleased therefore that the county has adopted a DfT-compliant methodology for its LCWIP as this will hold us in better stead in bids for funding from Active Travel England and other sources.

Rushmoor Borough Council welcomes the decision to have five core walking zones that focus not just on our three town and district centres (Farnborough, Aldershot and North Camp) but also on areas with high levels of pedestrian movement elsewhere (North Lane and Ash Road). The principle of 13 primary cycling routes is supported too although parts of the proposed network (for example, Route 170) can only be delivered with substantial intervention including compulsory purchase of surrounding land. In the current financial climate, whether funding for a new footbridge at Aldershot station is realistic in the short term is questionable. In its

current form the LCWIP is essentially a number of uncosted project ideas that offer significant potential to achieve modal change. The challenge for Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council is to review the consultation feedback, take on board useful amendments and then prioritise those ideas that are likely to have the greatest impact, are feasible in the current financial climate and/or where there is already some funding to deliver them.

Nonetheless, our members have identified two areas where the LCWIP should be more ambitious.

First, it needs to continue beyond the borough boundary into Surrey given the amount of out commuting to schools, shopping and other services. This will mean the county doing joint working with its neighbouring highway authority in and the relevant District/Borough Councils both now and as part of the proposed Blackwater Valley Area Strategy to support LTP4. The Farnham Infrastructure project and the Blackwater Opportunity Area provide immediate opportunities to take forward cross border co-operation. The LCWIP also needs to consider way of improving links into neighbouring Hart. It is fortunate that Hart has embarked on its own LCWIP. Both Hart and Rushmoor have established new parkland on our shared borough boundary that provides a potential off-road link.

Second, its focus solely on physical interventions misses the point that some people find it difficult to cycle or are unwilling to do so. Would it be possible to include a project to encourage more people to cycle? One member suggested hiring a running track. Others have suggested getting a group to show people how to cycle. The county may have its own contacts on that. We can identify local cycling groups here who may be interested in helping.

As for next steps, Rushmoor Borough Council believes that close cooperation is vital in agreeing the finalised routes, intervention and priorities and would want to be fully engaged in that process. In considering Year 1 and Year 2 projects in the final LCWIP the utilisation of unspent s106 contributions will need to be factored in to meet their relevant timescales. In this regard Rushmoor Borough Council would want to work with you on a business plan to implement the LCWIP. The concern shared by members and officers is that the LCWIP could be a set of aspirations without that clear planning. Rushmoor Borough Council would also expect that the LCWIP will inform highway responses on schemes in future and confirming how that process will work within Hampshire County Council would be useful.

In conclusion, Rushmoor Borough Council welcomes the consultation on the LCWIP and looks forward to working through with the county council the detailed considerations to bring it to its final form.

Your sincerely



Tim Mills
Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing