

## Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Title:** Proposal to undertake Public Engagement and Consultation Activity – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

**Report of:** Lee Davies – Principal Transport Policy Officer – Policy and Sustainable Travel

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### 1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To receive information with regard to the consultation plans being developed with regard to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

### 2. **Background**

- 2.1 The main purpose of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is to coordinate and ensure the quality of public engagement and consultation, in accordance with the standards for engagement and consultation.

### 3. **Sefton Wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

- 3.1 Sefton Council has actively engaged with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in the development of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This is currently being reviewed and amended to reflect any changes in the LCR network.
- 3.2 To complement the wider LCR LCWIP, the Council is also developing its own Sefton wide LCWIP. The LCWIP is being led by the Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) and is overseen by Member Officers Working Group (MOWG) for Active Travel. The LCWIP process was discussed at the MOWG on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022. At these meeting it was highlighted that early, pre public consultation was required, to help form early ideas on the needs / challenges for cycling and walking throughout Sefton and also early engagement with elected officials was critical.
- 3.3 The LCWIP aims to incorporate a borough-wide network of walking, wheeling (e.g. people with wheelchairs, pushchairs etc.) and cycling routes to provide attractive and high-quality inclusive routes for everyone, with the aspiration to encourage more trips by walking/wheeling, cycling and public transport.

- 3.4 The LCWIP will include a proposed ten-year delivery programme of activity and takes into account the work currently being completed by the Council which will make changes to streets and roads. The plan will also complement and improve the existing historic network in the borough.
- 3.5 The LCWIP aims to plan an active travel network which can support the following relevant local policy objectives:
- Sefton Vision 2030
  - Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
  - Public Health
  - Child Poverty
  - Road Safety
  - Equality and Inclusion
  - Cost of Living Crisis

#### **4. The Consultation**

- 4.1 Increasing levels of walking, wheeling and cycling, particularly for short journeys, is important and necessary if we are to reduce transport related Carbon emissions, which accounted for 27% of UK greenhouse emissions in 2019<sup>1</sup>, successfully address climate change, and advance the other policy objectives identified in 3.5 above.
- 4.2 One challenge with this consultation will be ensuring people recognise the strategic need for the LCWIP and how it links to the above policy objectives, thereby helping move the conversation and feedback to “how do we do this” rather than “do we do this or not” which has characterised feedback to some previous consultations on active travel.
- 4.3 In developing and delivering this consultation, regard has and will continue to be had to the findings of the Council’s recent review of consultation and engagement. In particular, setting the consultation in the context of an ongoing conversation about how we deliver the above policy objectives, rather than a single standalone consultation event; engaging in a variety of ways and with a variety of stakeholders to ensure a good, diverse representation of views, not just those of the most vocal; gathering and using both qualitative and quantitative feedback to inform action. The importance of proactively engaging young people, who often have fewer choices in terms of modes of travel and are more reliant on walking, wheeling and cycling, is also recognised.
- 4.4 Early pre-consultation has been completed which involved a series of six sessions held with key stakeholders. The sessions were held with representative groups who had an interest in walking/wheeling, cycling and horse riding, and with stakeholders who represent protected characteristics. This process has allowed the development of a draft network along with captured wider strategic issues raised during the

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<sup>1</sup> [2019 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

sessions.

- 4.5 Results from past consultations will also be considered as part of this process ensuring that any relevant information is captured and fed into the consultation analysis process. This will include;

***Your Streets:***

Your Roads and Streets

Southport Walking and Cycling Routes

Southport School Streets & Neighbourhood Pilot

Crosby Coastal Park New Foot and Cycleway

Great Georges Road Walking and Cycling Route Waterloo

***Collaborative Design:***

Southport Liveable Neighbourhood

***Growth Programme Consultations and Engagements:***

Southport Town Deal

Crosby Town Centre

Bootle Town Centre

- 4.6 The aim of the public consultation is to provide the strategic background around why this is needed, linking this to our strategic priorities around Climate Change, Air Quality, Health, Cost of Living, Inclusion and accessibility. Highlighting why we need one, what this would look like for Sefton and how we can make this best meet the needs of our local communities. The consultation will also explain how Sefton's LCWIP will complement the Liverpool City Region LCWIP.
- 4.7 The consultation will capture local concerns and ideas to enable the network to develop into a form which links people with their local journeys such as to school, shopping, leisure opportunities, healthcare and importantly linking to public transport stops and stations. The consultation will be clear on what it is and what it is not – for example it is not a referendum on whether we need an LCWIP, it is about how we can best develop networks to meet the needs of all our local communities in an inclusive and just way by considering their local views, experiences and challenges faced.
- 4.8 As we move into the wider public engagement phase there are a wide range of engagement activities planned which will be deployed to deliver an inclusive and representative exercise. As follows;
- The establishment of the Sefton Active Travel Network
  - Inclusive consultation materials
  - Online survey – Your Streets Your Say
  - Workshops / Focus Groups on request by stakeholders detailed in the stakeholder mapping especially seldom heard groups and protected characteristics
  - Exhibitions and drop-in sessions
  - Social Media / Press Release / other creative methods

- 4.9 The consultation timeframe will be consistent with the guidance set out in the Sefton Consultation Toolkit and be a period of 12 weeks. This is to allow sufficient time to engage all parties as set out in the stakeholder matrix and to allow time to consider the draft plans and provide sufficient time to allow a response via the varied formats offered.
- 4.10 Draft key messages have been identified in the communications strategy, to communicate the strategic links to this work as described in paragraph 4.2. They will be used throughout the communications plan to ensure consistent messaging;

**Key Message 1:** This plan will set out our ideas for future walking/wheeling and cycling routes in Sefton. The routes will make walking/wheeling and cycling safer, more attractive and link up people to places they want to go such as schools, colleges, bus stops, train stations, places of work and entertainment.

**Key Message 2:** This plan, containing future walking/wheeling and cycling routes, will help us to reduce transport related carbon emissions – which accounted for 27% of UK greenhouse emissions in 2019<sup>2</sup>. This plan will support the national 2050 net zero target, the regional 2040 net zero target and Sefton’s local authority 2030 net zero target, through people choosing to walk and cycle more.

**Key Message 3:** We are in a cost of living crisis, this plan will set out our future walking/wheeling and cycling routes that will offer the opportunity for all our communities to access inclusive, healthy, low cost travel. This will offer particular benefits for the most vulnerable people in our communities, who live in areas with the lowest car ownership, poor air quality and highest levels of poor health. The plan will also encourage increased physical activity levels and improve public health.

**Key Message 4:** The plan will set out our future investment in walking/wheeling and cycling routes across the borough for the next 10 years. The routes will be made in consultation with our communities when funding is available from the government. LCWIP provides a proposed strategy for improving the local cycling and walking networks across the borough. Detailed design work and actual implementation of agreed elements of the plan will follow when funding is available, as appropriate.

- 4.11 It is anticipated that once the Cabinet Member and Ward Councillor engagement has been completed the public consultation phase will start before Christmas allowing a 12-week consultation period concluding Mid-March 2023.

## 5. Reporting and Publishing the Findings

- 5.1 Following the close of the consultation activity all results will be collated and analysed. This will enable a stakeholder and community feedback

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<sup>2</sup> [2019 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

report to be compiled. This will be used to produce a summary report to feed into the finalisation of the LCWIP.

- 5.2 The summary report along with the next steps will be published on our LCWIP page of the Sefton Council Website along with a You Said, We Did article on the Your Sefton Your Say, Your Streets page.

## **6. Legal Department Comments**

- 6.1 Sefton's Legal Department has considered the consultation plans contained in this report and has no comments to make.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1 The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is recommended to:

- a) Appraise the public engagement and consultation plan for the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan.
- b) Request that the officers return to the Panel to provide details of their consultation results, including an analysis of the equality monitoring data and the feedback and evaluation resulting from the above consultation.

*Annex A*  
*Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan*