



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LOCAL CYCLING, WALKING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TASK & FINISH GROUP

SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MARCH 2023

Task & Finish Group Members:

Councillor Al Neal (Chair)

Councillors Peter Dennis (Vice Chair), Laura Blumenthal, Chris Johnson and Pauline Jorgensen

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Section 1 – Background and Summary

- 1.1 The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered updates on the development of the Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) at their meetings on 4 July 2022 and 29 November 2022. Following the latter meeting, the Committee resolved to establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the final draft of the LCWIP document prior to consideration by the Executive.
- 1.2 The Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group at their meeting on 23 January 2023, appended as Annex A to this report.
- 1.3 The Task and Finish Group met on two occasions, 25 January 2023 and 6 February 2023. Due to time constraints, the Group were unable to review the appendices to the main LCWIP report in detail. As such, the Group's Recommendations focus on the main LCWIP report.
- 1.4 The Group considered representations from the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways, the Transport Planning Team Manager, and an Associate Director at WSP.
- 1.5 An LCWIP sets out the strategic, high-level approach to identifying long-term cycling and walking improvements, to make the case for future investment through funding bids and by informing discussions with developers.
- 1.6 The Recommendations of the Group seek to ensure that data used within the report is consistent and up to date throughout. Other Recommendations seek the inclusion of an additional paragraph in relation to safe bicycle storage, and the provision of a process chart which outlines how potential schemes would progress from concept stage, through to design, engagement, consultation, and delivery. The final two Recommendations suggest how the live LCWIP document and individual schemes might be scrutinised going forward.
- 1.7 Whilst ongoing review of the live LCWIP document can be successfully executed as a sole Overview and Scrutiny function, the Group sought to ensure that scrutiny of individual schemes included local Ward Members and representatives of the relevant Town and Parish Councils. The Group hopes that this process will lead to robust schemes that will deliver the infrastructure needed by local communities.
- 1.8 The Group wishes to thank officers and the Executive Member for organising the Task and Finish Group and providing the documentation within short timescales.

Section 2 - Recommendations to the Executive

- 2.1 Confirm what data in relation to the 2021 Census was available, and incorporate any updated data. 2011 Census data should only be used where WBC were still awaiting the detailed breakdown of the 2021 Census data.
- 2.2 Remove reference to data related to trunk roads, for example the M4, which were outside of WBC's control.
- 2.3 Confirm if WBC had access to the data relating to how many households in the Borough had access to a car, and amend the report appropriately if available.
- 2.4 In relation to employment centres, make use of datasets used within the Bus Service Improvement Plan, and amend the report appropriately.
- 2.5 To ensure consistency between strategic plans, confirm if cross boundary commuting data was consistent with that being applied to the Local Transport Plan.
- 2.6 If available, data held by WBC regarding speeding vehicle clusters be added to the report.
- 2.7 Verify if accident data was up to date and complete, and amend as appropriate.
- 2.8 Amend reference from 'Road Transport' to 'Road, Rail and Shipping Transport' within the report.
- 2.9 Ensure consistency throughout the report when referencing 'short car journeys', for example to state that 'approximately 30% of car journeys within the Borough were relatively short'.
- 2.10 Confirm if schemes relating to Earley could be better defined and detailed, as with other areas.
- 2.11 Consider an additional paragraph within the report relating to bicycle parking in convenient areas, including town centres and public transport hubs.
- 2.12 A process flow chart be produced to allow greater understanding of how schemes move from concept stage, through to design, engagement, consultation, and delivery.
- 2.13 The Active Travel Task and Finish Group, formed of Overview and Scrutiny Members, review the LCWIP on a 6-monthly basis.
- 2.14 The Active Travel Task and Finish Group, formed of Overview and Scrutiny Members, with relevant Ward Members and relevant Town and Parish Council representatives, review proposed schemes a minimum of 6 months (wherever possible) prior to public consultation.

WBC Overview and Scrutiny

Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Task and Finish Group

Terms of Reference

1. To consider the latest draft and information relating to the LCWIP, and to formulate any recommendations for improvement to the Executive;
2. To consider the summary of results from the latest consultation, to inform any potential recommendations to the Executive;
3. To consider how the plan may be shaped to help encourage more residents to use sustainable transport methods, for example improving and promoting cycleways;
4. To produce a final report to the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, subsequently, the Executive with any recommendations for improvement.

Witnesses

- WBC Members and Officers;
- Expert groups – e.g. SusTrans
- Any other witnesses approved by the Task and Finish Group.

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